

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow
Strangely British
The young British
eccentrics keeping
a much loved
tradition alive
War in the air
The popularity of
pirate radio is
threatening BBC and
commercial stations
Business as usual
If 18th-century man
walked into the City
he would instantly
recognize many of
the financial institutions
American myths
Philip Norman
discovers the
British view of
New York

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio
competition prize of £2,000 was
shared by two winners yesterday.
Mr Donald McDermid of
Glasgow and Mr Eric
Clements of Lower Heyford,
Oxfordshire, each received
£1,000. Portfolio list, page 14;
how to play, information
service, back page.

**Pound puts
pressure on
base rates**
A rise in clearing bank rates
followed closer after the pound
fell to new lows.
Sterling closed at \$1.1465,
after trading at \$1.1395.
The sterling index fell to 72.5, down
0.5 on the day. The pound's
decline is the result of dollar
strength and concern over oil
prices.
Details, page 13

**Vodka plot on
Polish priest**
A plan to pour vodka down the
throat of Father Popieluszko, the
Polish priest who was shot in
Solidarity headquarters, while
drunk, was revealed at the trial
of four secret policemen
accused of the priest's murder.
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Leading article, page 11

Clark bows out
Mr William Clark's resignation
as Interior Secretary has
removed one of President Reagan's
most trusted conservative
allies in the Administration. He
will go in the next two to three
months.
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Owen law suit
Dr David Owen's accusation
that the television news services
in Britain are unfair to the
Allied cause will go before the
High Court this month.
Page 2

Lloyd retires
Clive Lloyd played his last Test
match for West Indies against
Australia in Sydney, where his
side were beaten by an innings
and 55 runs.
Page 18

Leader page 11
Letters: On defence, from Air
Marshal Sir Leslie Mavor; ritual
slaughter, from Mr F. Dixon
Ward; drugs, from Dr R. R.
Charlwood
Leading articles: Polish trial,
Afghanistan
Features, pages 8, 16
The blunders that have led to
famine: Houdini Heseltine
straining at the chains; Ronald
Butt on a pointless nostalgia;
1985 anniversaries; a profile of
Nicholas Hinton
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Geoffrey Smith reviews the
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Hugh Barnes on fiction:
Woodrow Wyatt on Jingoism;
Frank Johnson on French
intellectuals; Edward Mortimer
on Arafat
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Rev Dr Norman Goodall,
Mr G. R. Mitchell

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Reagan sets two-pronged strategy for arms talks

From Christopher Thomas, Washington
President Reagan has initiated American arms negotiations at the outset of arms negotiations. The Americans are due to carry out a further test of an anti-satellite device launched from an F15 fighter in the spring. The Soviet Union already has a limited capacity to destroy satellites in orbit.
Mr Reagan approved the two-pronged strategy in final consultations with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who will head the US side, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defense Secretary.
Mr Shultz will reject an expected Russian proposal to suspend research into futuristic space weapons under the so-called 'Star Wars' programme, properly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).
The initiative between Mr Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on Monday and Tuesday is intended as a prelude to possible full arms control talks, which Washington hopes can begin within three months. The United States is willing to put its Star Wars programme on the table for general discussion in Geneva in the context of future talks on defensive weapons, despite reservations expressed by Mr Weinberger.
While refusing to halt the programme's research element, the United States may in any full negotiations show a willingness to be flexible on the testing and deployment of space weapons - a gesture that would be welcomed by European allies, including Britain.
Mr Shultz in principle favours a flexible approach. The testing of US Star Wars weapons is in any case probably more than a decade away.
President Reagan is adamant that the United States will not accept the Russian call for a ban on current testing of more conventional anti-satellite weapons.
Mr Reagan met Mr Shultz, Mr Weinberger and Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, on New Year's Day in Palm Springs, California, to finalize America's approach to the Geneva talks.
The proposed talks on offensive arms would cover intermediate range nuclear weapons and strategic nuclear arms. Similar talks with the Soviet Union foundered at the end of 1983.
Mr Reagan is known to be anxious to secure arms control agreements with the Soviet Union in his final term, but he will insist on any agreement being verifiable, leading to genuine arms reductions, and leaving neither side with a military advantage.
Administration officials are cautioning against expecting too much from the Shultz-Gromyko meeting, saying that any negotiations will be complex and long term.
Mr Shultz also plans to raise other East-West, regional and bilateral questions at the Geneva meeting.
His right-hand man in the arms control arena, Mr Paul Nitze, will oversee any formal negotiations with the Soviet Union, but for family reasons will not head any American delegation. Mr Nitze, aged 77, is a veteran arms negotiator who headed the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) negotiations in Geneva, which the Soviet Union broke off in November 1983. Although a conservative, he is regarded as flexible and pragmatic.

Soviet missile flies over Norway

Oslo (Reuters) - A Soviet tactical cruise missile flew over northern Norway and is believed to have gone down in neutral Finland after flying across the border.
A Norwegian Defence Ministry spokesman said today that the missile had probably been fired last Friday from a Soviet submarine in the Barents Sea, where the Soviet Union was holding a naval exercise at the time.
It was tracked by radar at 1130 gmt on Friday when it flew in from the sea, past a Norwegian village and into neutral Finland. "We have information to the effect that it must have landed in Finland," the spokesman said.
Norwegian military authorities were leaning towards the theory that the missile may have accidentally gone off course and flown over Norway.
In Helsinki, a Finnish Foreign Ministry spokesman said tonight that Finland had been informed of the incident by Norway but declined comment.
The commander of the Finnish Air Force, General Raimo Merio, told Finnish television that an apparent breach of Finnish neutrality was under investigation.
The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, are due to meet in Geneva on January 7 and 8 for renewed consultations on arms control.
The Norwegian Chief of Defence Staff, General Frederic Bull-Hansen said it was the first recorded instance of a missile being flown over Norwegian airspace.
He did not know if the missile was armed.
Cruise missiles are in effect pilotless aircraft that fly at subsonic speeds to their targets. They can be programmed to fly low, hugging the contours of the ground to elude radar.
● LONDON: The Ministry of Defence in London said the incident was a matter of deep concern and Britain was maintaining close contact with Norway and other allies over the matter.



SUBWAY VIGILANTE: Mr Bernard Hugo Goetz, who walked into a police station in Concord, New Hampshire, and claimed to have shot four teenagers in a New York subway, on his way to court where he agreed not to fight an extradition order to New York.
He is charged with four counts of attempted murder and possession of a dangerous weapon.
Police said that three of the youths had been carrying screwdrivers and all had arrest records. They had reportedly asked Mr Goetz for five dollars.
They said they had been seeking Mr Goetz, a self-employed electronics specialist with no arrest record, since a Boxing Day telephone tip. He resembled a composite sketch of the wanted passenger.
Mr Goetz was quoted as saying that he did not need a lawyer and was "seriously considering" defending himself.

Police held Botham in drug inquiry

By Peter Davenport
The England and Somerset cricketer Ian Botham and his wife have been arrested on suspicion of possessing drugs, it was disclosed yesterday.
The couple were arrested on December 31, the final day of Mr Botham's benefit year with his county, after detectives searched the couple's home in the village of Epworth, near Scarborough.
Mr Botham, and his wife, Kathryn, were taken to Scarborough police station for questioning. Later, they were allowed bail and ordered to report back to the station on January 25. No charges were preferred.
The police said yesterday that during the search they recovered a number of substances, believed to be cannabis, which were still being examined.
A spokesman for Humberside police said that after the forensic report was received, and further police inquiries, Mr and Mrs Botham would be informed whether or not charges would be brought when they next visited the police station.
The police would not say what led them to make the search, which took place during the day, when Mr and Mrs Botham are believed to have been at home with their family.
Mr Alan Herd, Mr Botham's solicitor, said last night that the couple had been advised by their lawyers to make no further comment until the end of the police investigation.

Britain sets sail for America's Cup

By John Nicholls
Details of the Royal Thames Yacht Club's challenge for the America's Cup in Perth in 1987 were revealed by Admiral Sir Ian Easton at the club's headquarters in London yesterday. Three boats are to be built, an impressive management team has been engaged, and all the challenge lacks at the moment is another £2.5 million.
Sir Ian, the syndicate chairman, was confident that the required sponsors would commit themselves in time for construction of the first boat to begin in April. The total budget is £5.75 million and the financial advisers to the syndicate have devised schemes that will provide marketing opportunities for a wide variety of British businesses. The days of the wealthy individual mounting his personal challenge, as Peter de Savary did last time round for Britain, would appear to be over.
Harold Cudmore, Britain's most experienced match-racing skipper, has been appointed skipper, with Philip Crebbin as his right-hand man. Both were involved in the Victoria syndicate's challenge for the Cup in 1983, although both had left the team during the closing stages of that controversial campaign.
Both British Aerospace and the British National Maritime Institute have been involved in preliminary design work, and Sir Ian said that more research had already been completed than in the entire Victoria campaign. The nominated designers are David Holm and Stephen Wallis, who will be joined at a later stage by Ian Howlett, designer of Victory '83 and Lionheart, the 1980 challenger. The first boat will be conventional, which, in 12-metre parlor, is presumably a development of Australia II, the winner of the Cup in 1983. The second boat will be radical, and, naturally enough, no details of this design were forthcoming.

Times to be visited by the Queen

By Robin Young
The Queen is to pay a double visit to The Times on February 28 as part of the paper's Bicentenary celebrations. In the morning Her Majesty will tour the editorial departments and attend the morning conference chaired by the editor. In the evening the Queen will return to Gray's Inn Road to watch the newspaper she has seen planned being produced.
The Bicentenary year got away to a splendid start with demand outstripping the supply of yesterday's issue, which included a reprint of our primal ancestor, The Daily Universal Register of January 1, 1785.
The Times produced almost the maximum number of copies possible under existing

On this day
In the second of a series of reprints of news reports taken from The Times of the past 200 years today's item from January 3, 1890 tells of the Jameson Raid during the Boer War.
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production agreements, and reports from many regions yesterday afternoon suggested that some reprinting would be needed. It is probable that the number of copies sold is the highest for any issue in The Times's 200-year history.
The record may not last long, there is already unprecedented demand for the issue of next Monday, January 7, which is to be accompanied by a 158-page colour magazine celebrating the Bicentenary. Millions of print figures may be exceeded by demand.
To avoid disappointment regular readers should order their copies of Monday's paper from their newsagent without delay.

Worst weather of winter grips Britain

The worst weather of the winter, hit large areas of the country yesterday. Snowfalls were widespread and more were expected as temperatures dropped.
A large band of snow and sleet swept eastern Britain with substantial snow settling as far south as Kent. More snow began falling in the North last night and motorists were caught in fresh falls in Scotland where there were problems on the main A95 Perth to Braemar road, in the A68 at Carter Bar and on the A980 at Alford.
Average maximum day temperatures plummeted to less than 4°C from the seasonal norm of up to 8°C.
Sea crossings are expected to remain moderate for the rest of this week, although many passengers will experience delays because of a strike by French seamen.

Expected 'surge' to work by miners fails to materialize

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter
The National Coal Board received a muted response to its New Year propaganda campaign yesterday when between 300 and 400 strikers returned to work.
On the day that 160 of Britain's 174 pits were due to start production after the holidays, some NCB officials had been hoping for the sort of "surge" back to work experienced in November after negotiations broke down.
Other managers said that they were encouraged by the numbers turning up and see next Monday and the rest as the most crucial time.
The leadership of the National Union of Mine-workers derived considerable satisfaction from the figures, which was in response to a coal board publicity drive costing thousands of pounds. Thus far the prospect of earning up to £1,000 tax free in the first month has not tempted many strikers, and around 118,000 NUM members, out of a total 188,000, are still on strike, according to the board's own statistics.
In a statement to The Times yesterday, Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, said: "The merchants of misinformation at the NCB have spent a fortune on misleading propaganda about a mythical drift back to work. With well over 140,000 of our members on strike, the same number as at the start in March 1984, we know we are going to win this dispute."
The key area of North Derbyshire, normally regarded as a 'barometer of miners' sentiment, saw 137 return to work yesterday, according to the NCB, but the majority are still on strike.
In the North-east 132 went back and 31 in the western area. For the first time since the strike started 10 months ago four pits in Northumberland were producing coal - at Whitby, Vane Tempest and Wearmouth.
Pits in Scotland do not open until Monday, but in South Wales where a return was predicted at three more pits, only 117 turned up for work, compared with 127 before Christmas.
Meanwhile, the prospects for negotiation will almost certainly have to wait for both sides to digest the figures. Coal board officials still believe that March 6, the anniversary of the dispute, will be the important date.

Midland to pay dividend from reserves

Midland Bank, one of Britain's four biggest high street clearing banks, admitted yesterday that it will have to draw on reserves to maintain the shareholders' dividend for 1984 at the same level as for 1983, William Kay, City Editor, writes. It is the first time that a clearing bank has had to do this since the banks began declaring their true profits in 1969.
However, the bank was at pains to stress that this would have no effect on its 4 million customers. "The fact that we are maintaining the dividend reflects our confidence in the prospects for 1985," said a spokesman, "and it is not the intention to pass the pain on to our customers."
On December 12, Midland announced that it had abolished bank charges for any customer who stayed in credit. This campaign has already attracted a "significant" number of customers, but it is too early to give detailed figures.
There have been persistent rumours that the bank would have to cut its dividend, which was paid out at the rate of 25.5p a share last year and cost a total of £58 million.
The Midland has been in lengthy discussions with the Bank of England over its problems with Crocker National Corporation, the Californian banking group in which it has had a controlling interest since October 1981.
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New rules aim at cutting cigarette tar yields

By Colin Hughes
Rules aimed at cutting the tar yield of cigarettes from an average 15 milligrams to 13 milligrams were introduced by the Government yesterday, a move that anti-smoking campaigners say could cut the 100,000 smoking-related deaths each year by up to 20,000.
The Department of Health and Social Security announcement, which is part of a voluntary agreement reached with the tobacco industry last year, means that more brands will fall into middle and high tar categories, unless their manufacturers reduce the tar yield.
The last government figures for tar yields for each brand were published last June, based on tests carried out in 1983, so many tar yield figures are already out of date.
Tobacco companies said yesterday that they have been reducing tar yields over the past 18 months to anticipate the new categories. Imperial Tobacco said few of its brands would be affected because its tar yields had been reduced voluntarily since tar yield categories were introduced in 1973.
The most popular cigarette in Britain, for example, is Benson and Hedges Special Filter, produced by Gallager. In the most recent figures it has an 18mg yield and would move from the middle to high tar bracket.
Mr Martin Mullholland, Gallager's public affairs general manager, said yesterday, however, that last year the company had cut the tar yield of the special filter to less than 18mg, and it would remain in the middle tar category.
The Tobacco Advisory Council said the agreement would take four years to bring average tar yields down to 13mg. Even then, it would depend on the smoker's choice as to whether overall tar consumption fell.
Under the rules, the middle to high tar category disappears (it was formerly 23mg to 28mg), and all cigarettes of 18mg or more will be classed high tar (formerly only those of 29mg or more). Because advertisement of high tar cigarettes has been banned for five years there will be a strong incentive for companies to bring most brands below 18mg.
Low tar cigarettes will continue to be those yielding less than 10mg, low to middle will be 10mg to 14mg (formerly 11mg to 16mg), and middle tar will be 15mg to 18mg (17mg to 22mg).
The move coincided with the announcement that National No-Smoking Day this year will be on March 20, the day after Budget day. Last year's no-smoking day led 1.5 million of the nation's smokers to try giving up.
Mr David Simpson, chairman of the group of anti-smoking organizations running the day, said they welcomed the

Cigarette Tar Yields	
Benson & Hedges Special Filter	18mg High (Middle)
John Player Special King Size	17mg Middle (Middle)
Regal King Size	15mg Middle (Low to Middle)
Silk Cut King Size	8mg Low (Low to M)
Dunhill King Size	14mg Low to M (Low to M)
Embassy No 1	15mg Middle (Low to M)
Rothman's King Size	17mg Middle (Middle)
Player's No 6 King Size	15mg Middle (Low to M)
Lambert & Butler King Size	16mg Middle (Low to M)
Marlboro	13mg Low to M (Low to M)
Peter Stuyvesant Luxury	9mg Low (Low)
Embassy No 1 Extra Mild	16mg Middle (Low to M)
Benson & Hedges Longer Length	15mg Middle (Low to M)
Berkeley	15mg Middle (Low to M)
Dunhill Luxury Length	15mg Middle (Low to M)

Kathryn and Ian Botham: New Year's Eve arrest

Harrods Sale

STARTS TOMORROW 9AM TO 6PM
Special Selections for Men

Brand	Old Price	New Price
Suits Examples:		
Charles Bonis	£310	£215
Grandy	£195	£135
D'Urban	£185	£125
Jacobson	£185	£115
Rex Tudor	£125	£90
Overcoats Examples:		
Barwin Cashmere	£260	£190
Odemark	£150	£105
Jackets Examples:		
Sof	£120	£75
Double breasted Blazer	£100	£75
Trousers Examples:		
D'Arceva	£30	£50
Shirts Examples:		
Vicini	£32	£18.95
Hilitch & Key pure cotton	£24.95	£23.95
Three for £55		
Silk Tie Examples:		
Giverny	£15.95	£3.50
Sweaters Examples:		
Landsend V-neck	£28	£19.50
Three for £55		
Pyjamas Examples:		
Cotton	£51.50	£26.75

Man's Shop Ground Floor. Personal shoppers only.
All activities are free Harrods preview show.

Harrods Cardholders can charge Sale goods to their account, or any of the following credit cards may be used: American Express/Access/Visa/Debit Card.
Sale Opening Hours Fri 4th Jan to Sat 12th Jan: 9am to 6pm, Wed 6th Jan to 7pm.
14th Jan to 20th Jan: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am to 5pm, Wed 14th Jan to 7pm, Sat 15th Jan to 6pm.

Harrods
KINGSTON BRIDGE
London SW70 7AL 01-730 1234

High Court to hear Owen news complaint

By John Winder

The complaint by Dr David Owen that the news services of the BBC and independent broadcasting organizations are unfair to the Alliance is to be taken before the High Court, possibly on January 14.

Dr Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, complained to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission last June that the Alliance was getting only 6 per cent of the political coverage on the main television news broadcasts, compared with 22 per cent for Labour and 72 per cent for the Conservatives. The commission refused to consider the complaint, saying that it was outside its remit.

Dr Owen's response was to ask the High Court to examine the Commission's duties as defined in the Broadcasting Act, 1981, and rule on whether it was right in saying the complaint was outside its remit.

Since then, the commission, it is understood, has said that even if they are wrong in that respect, they will use the provision in the Act that they do not have to consider a complaint if it "appears to them for any other reason inappropriate for them to entertain or proceed with the consideration of the complaint."

The basis of the complaint was that the Alliance had gained 25.4 per cent of the votes in the last general election, against 17.6 per cent for Labour, and that by-elections since had given them 36 per cent. Conservatives 33 per cent and Labour 29 per cent, excluding the Southgate result.

At the time of the original complaint the SDP had conducted a 10-week exercise showing that on the main BBC and ITN evening news bulletins on television, Conservatives had been given 85 minutes, 14 seconds on BBC and 56 minutes 58 seconds on ITV; Labour 26 minutes 56 seconds on BBC and 16 minutes 57 seconds on ITV, while the SDP Liberal Alliance had received 7 minutes 56 seconds on BBC and 5 minutes 31 seconds on ITV.

The High Court case will be about whether the commission should have considered the complaint, but will not go into the merits of the complaint itself.

Five more task forces for cities

By Our Political Reporter

The Government is to seek greater private sector involvement in its efforts to tackle dereliction and unemployment in the inner cities.

It plans to set up five new Civil Service teams, similar to the Merseyside task force established by Mr Michael Heseltine when Secretary of State for the Environment, to co-ordinate the Government's activities in other major cities in an attempt to ensure that money already allocated is more efficiently spent.

A senior civil servant is to head the teams which will operate in the so-called "partnership" areas established under the last Labour government.

Comprising officials from various government departments, including environment, transport, trade, health and social security and the Manpower Services Commission, the task forces will operate in Birmingham, Manchester, Salford, Newcastle-Gateshead, Hackney-Islington and Lambeth.

They will draw on the experience of the Merseyside initiative which followed the Toxteth riots.

The move will not involve the commitment of any additional government money, but a fresh emphasis will be placed upon the more efficient use of urban development grants to attract private companies to invest in the areas.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, who is working on the scheme with Lord Young of Grafton, Minister without Portfolio and the Cabinet's jobs specialist, said yesterday that the areas had a complex mix of problems.

"I want to commit the private sector and involve the private sector rather more," he said. "I hope to try to help the inner city areas with their problems, which are considerable and growing, so that they become places where people want to live and work again."

Greenham arrests

Six women were arrested by Ministry of Defence police and ejected from Greenham Common air base yesterday after they cut through the boundary fence of the cruise missile base.

Desk computer

Acorn, makers of the BBC Microcomputer, are developing a desk-top computer for business use. The new unit, expected to be launched in the late summer for about £700, will have computer and telecommunication facilities combined in one piece of equipment.

Family trapped under water after car crash are rescued

From Our Correspondent, York

A baby aged six months was recovering in hospital yesterday after her parents' car somersaulted into a village pond on Tuesday night and sank. Katie Robinson was held in her harness and beside her mother, father, brother and grandfather all hung upside down in the icy water trapped in their seat belts. Then Mr Peter Smith, a plumber, who lives a few yards from the pond in Warton, near Pocklington, north Humberside, and who had been watching television, heard a noise outside.

He looked out of the window and could see nothing at first. But he caught a glimpse of the vehicle's brake lights shining below the water before they went out.

Dressed in their night clothes, Mr Smith, aged 46, his wife, Susan, and their daughter, Rachel, aged 13, grabbed torches and ran outside. Mr Smith plunged into the pond to find that all the doors except one on the passenger side were locked.

One by one he managed to free Mr Ian Robinson, aged 33, a British Rail engineer, his wife, Madeleine, aged 29, their son, Matthew, aged five, and the boy's grandfather, aged 68.

Yesterday Mr Smith said: "The mother was hysterical. She kept screaming: 'My baby is dead, my baby is dead.' I thought she meant the little lad

and tried to assure her he was OK. "She kept screaming and pointing back to the car and I realized there must be someone else still inside."

"I'd lost my torch in the pandemonium and it was pitch black. I went under again and felt this fluffy bundle. It was a child, but it was in a safety harness and I couldn't undo the straps. Eventually, the child's father plunged back in beside me and between us we pulled the little girl out."

"I don't know how long she had been under water, but it seemed like an awful long time. She was blue and had stopped breathing. I was sure she was dead."

Mr Tony Biggin, aged 42, a farm manager, of Stuart House, Warton, then used his experience with calves and lambs to help to revive the baby. He tipped her upside down, ripped her nose and began to give her heart massage. "There was no immediate sign of life. I thought it was a hopeless case, but I had to keep trying," he said.

"After about a minute the child choked and drew its first breath. I gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation with the help of a policeman who arrived."

Police Constable Andy Campbell then took the baby into the Smiths' home and

wrapped her in tinfoil to keep her warm before placing her in a warm bath.

Yesterday, Mrs Robinson and the baby were satisfactory in hospital. Her husband, son and father left hospital, returning to their home in Wydale Road, Osballdwade, York.

Mr Ian Robinson's father, Roy said that the family had hit black ice while returning from a day trip to the coast.

● The Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, Sir Andrew Huxley, aged 67, has been seriously injured in a road accident. He was said yesterday to be fairly comfortable as he recovered in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

He received serious head and chest injuries in the accident in Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

Mr and Mrs Smith and Rachel (left) with Mr Biggin and (below) the car yesterday.

The miners' strike

Labour call for new initiative

Mr Stan Orme, the Labour Party's chief spokesman on energy, yesterday called for a new initiative to settle the coal strike with an agreement from both sides to resume talks without preconditions.

Mr Orme said that if the Government was banking on breaking the spirit of the miners it had another think coming, and he gave a warning that the dispute could go on beyond 1985.

He was speaking after a radio interview by Mr Michael Eaton, the coal board spokesman, in which Labour leaders regarded as being slightly more conciliatory than recent coal board statements, in that he did not lay down conditions for talks previously insisted upon by Mr Ian Macgregor. There were that the miners' union must indicate

in writing that it would negotiate in accordance with the Nacods settlement and the Acas proposals.

Mr Orme's remarks also reflected the growing belief in the Labour and TUC leadership that unless a breakthrough can be made early in the new year the strike will further solidify and may go on for many more months, with continuing political damage for Labour.

Interviewed on the Jimmy Young programme on BBC Radio 2, Mr Orme said that Mr Eaton had seemed to be more open about the possibility of talks resuming. Mr Macgregor had laid down preconditions unacceptable to the miners' union. "I am hoping that talks can now start without preconditions."

Movement is needed. I am calling for the Government in

conjunction with the coal board to initiate discussions on an open agenda and see where we go from there."

He went on: "What is needed is resumed negotiations without preconditions - test the sincerity of the NUM - I am confident they would come to such negotiations."

Asked about recriminations in the Labour movement over the strike Mr Orme said that the Government had made it political. "It is they who are resisting the chance of a negotiated settlement. They are banking everything on a drift back to work. They are trying to break the NUM. We have said throughout that we support without equivocation the case the NUM has put forward for the preservation of jobs and areas."

Audit wanted of council money for families

By Paul Valley

Complaints have been made to the Audit Commission about district auditors who have refused to take emergency action over payments by local authorities to hardship funds for the families of striking miners.

The leaders of the Conservative opposition groups on both South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear county councils have written to the Commission, which appoints district auditors to ask for extraordinary audits after controversial payments to strikers' hardship funds.

Tyne and Wear County Council has made direct donations totalling £260,000, and South Yorkshire has paid £100,000. A complaint has also been made to the auditor of Sheffield City Council over the cash payments of £140,000 to strikers' families.

The Audit Commission said yesterday that it would look into any complaints.

Mr George Smith, leader of the Tory group at Tyne and Wear, said yesterday: "This is an improper use of ratepayers' money. I have had more than

600 letters of complaint and yet the district auditor has refused to take any immediate action. So I have asked the Audit Commission to exercise its power to conduct an extraordinary audit and have the courts declare the payments illegal."

Were the courts to deem the payments outside the scope of Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, which provides councils with the power to make emergency payments, then individual councillors would become personally liable.

Government sources yesterday indicated that most of the 70 local authorities who have made such emergency payments have already taken counsel's advice in the matter.

● Anthony Glyndwr Williams, aged 26, a striking miner, of Ty Coch, Rhymney, Mid-Glamorgan, will appear before Merthyr Tydfil magistrates today, charged with the murder of Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, the taxi driver who died while taking a working miner to his shift. Two other miners have already been remanded in custody charged with the murder.

Pit dispute keeps strike tally high

Working days lost as a result of industrial disputes totalled 2,856,000 in November.

2,856,000 of these in the coal strike. Miners returning to work reduced days lost in the coal industry by 254,000 November. However, more industrial disputes in other industries meant that total days lost fell only slightly, from 2,920,000 in October to 2,858,000 in November.

The figures, in the Department of Employment's gazette, show that days lost from January to November last year totalled 21.7 million, 17.6 million of those in the coal industry.

Britain's strike record in 1984 will be the worst since 1979, when 29.5 million working days were lost. However, the number of separate stoppages in 1984 was comparatively small. From January to November there were 1,105 industrial stoppages compared with 1,352 in the whole of 1983. 1,528 in 1982 and 2,703 in 1977.

Emphasis on space urged on Thatcher

Britain must create its own agency to exploit commercial opportunities in space, the Prime Minister was advised yesterday.

In a statement sent to Mrs Thatcher, Professor Martin Rees, Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge, calls on the Government to follow the lead of France and Germany in taking space more seriously.

According to the pamphlet published by Argo Venture an organization set up last year to promote space exploration, Britain spends about £200 million a year on space, which is less than half that allocated by France.

"Space activities within the UK have also suffered for years from fragmentation and poor co-ordination: we have no organization analogous, for instance, to the French space agency (CNES). In particular this hampers our efforts to relate effectively to the European Space Agency," Professor Rees writes.

Britain's Future in Space. Argo Venture, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PF, £1.



Back on the beat: Police Constable Timothy Phillips, aged 34, who returned to work at Littlehampton, Sussex, yesterday, nine months after he was hit in the groin by gunmen alleged to have hi-jacked a car at Arundel.

Constable Phillips said: "This has been the hardest year of my life. It was like starting to walk again." Two men have been committed for trial on charges including wounding PC Phillips.

A-test papers 'are being held back'

By David Cross

The Government was withholding important documents about the testing of nuclear weapons in Australia and on Christmas Island in the Pacific between 1952 and 1964, it was claimed at a press conference in London yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of formal hearings in Britain by an Australian royal commission into the tests, a spokesman for Greenpeace, the environmental organization, said that many papers that should have been released under the 30-year rule where not being made available to legal representatives of servicemen or aboriginals allegedly affected by nuclear radiation.

The hearings, which start today with the testimony of former British servicemen who took part in the tests, have already proved an embarrassment to the British Government, which has said that precautions were sufficiently stringent to safeguard the safety of participants.

Mr Ken McGinley, chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, who attended yesterday's press conference, also accused the Government of a "complete cover-up" of the facts surrounding the tests.

Mr John Berry, a researcher and member of the veterans' association, said that a "lot of delicate information" about individual cases had been removed from the documents they had been allowed to examine at the Public Records Office in New York. Other papers were being withheld under the Official Secrets Act.

At the press conference, the veterans and Greenpeace called for the establishment of a Commonwealth commission of inquiry into the effects of the British nuclear tests.

The only way the facts on radiation damage can be made known "is for governments who have no stake in the continued use or production of nuclear weapons, but whose people have been damaged by their use, to hold an investigation".

Mr George Pritchard, nuclear campaigner for Greenpeace, said.

Boat trade looks for show boost

By Robin Young

This year's Boat Show, which Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the First Sea Lord and a keen yachtsman, opens at Earl's Court in London today is regarded as crucial for a boating industry which has been in an economic trough for several years.

Last year business was reckoned to have been 8 per cent up in money terms, and this year there were more applicants for exhibition space. The number who could not be accommodated had to join a waiting list for a berth at some future show is longer than ever.

Craft on display range from a \$81, £420,000 luxury sailing yacht to a £59 do-it-yourself canoe kit and a dinghy which can be folded down to a size of four inches in less than a minute. The cheapest craft of all on show is a replica of the original windsurfer with which Peter Chivers, as a schoolboy, invented a new multi-million pound watersport. It is made from scraps of plywood, a pole from a shop blind, and a tent flysheet, and costs "a few pence for pins and glue".

£536 salmon

A Dublin hotelier paid £536 - £42 a pound for a 12½ lb salmon yesterday. The fish was the first to be caught on the River Liffey on the opening day of the new season.

Stores bid for dockland site

By Judith Huntley

Tesco and J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chains, are rival bidders for an 80,000 sq ft superstore in London docklands at Surrey Docks on the south side of the Thames.

The London Docklands Development Corporation, the body responsible for the regeneration of 5,000 acres of redundant dockland, says that one of the two supermarket chains for the new store on a 17-acre site in Surrey Quays, off Lower Road.

The store will form part of a 200,000 sq ft district shopping centre and the development corporation is hoping that a variety store will come into the scheme as well.

Tesco and Marks and Spencer recently announced that they were going to undertake joint developments.

Talks at FT aimed to avert stoppage

Unions and management at The Financial Times meet tomorrow in an attempt to avoid a dispute which could halt production next week.

Machine room men are refusing to produce a paper of more than 40 pages until an outstanding claim about pay and manning is met.

But the company, which is planning an edition of more than 40 pages in the middle of next week, argues that the increased output is already covered by agreement.

The talks are regarded by management as make or break negotiations and that the company is now "at the end of the road". The dispute follows from the 10-week strike in 1983 which resulted in a commitment by both sides to conclude a joint press room deal which would eliminate the frequent "leap-frogging" disputes between the National Graphical Association machine managers and the machine assistants who belong to Sogat '82.

The company is saying privately that printers refusing to co-operate in the production of an enlarged FT may be suspended. If machine room men were sent home the paper could not be produced.

The normal agreement provides for the production of 157 papers of more than 40 pages in each year. Because of disputes last autumn, the quota was not extended and the paper was smaller than usual. The company argues that the agreement in now in a new year, and a fresh quota of 157 papers therefore applies.

● A peace formula to end the stoppage by more than 70 members of the National Union of Journalists at The News, Portsmouth's evening newspaper, will be put to union leaders tomorrow (Friday).

Management will suggest a tentative limit on the number of National Graphical Association members transferring to substituting duties as part of the company's new technology programme.

Live TV for Lords debate

By Our Political Reporter

The broadcasting authorities are planning live coverage of the first televised parliamentary debate in the House of Lords on January 23.

The BBC is to go on the air shortly before the House starts sitting at 2.30 with a brief introduction for viewers and then show question time, which usually lasts about 25 minutes, and the opening speeches in the debate initiated by the Opposition.

The BBC hopes to transmit the debate for most of the afternoon, first on BBC1 and later switching to BBC2, and it is to extend by 15 minutes its main news bulletin in the evening to show extracts of the debate. Channel Four will also be giving live coverage.

The first minister to be seen in a televised debate will be Lord Gower, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who is opening for the Government, and the more familiar figure of Lord Whitelaw, who will be winding up. Other ministers will have been seen at question time.

The debate will provide the opportunity for the opposition parties, the crossbenchers and dissident Conservatives to criticize the Government's economic record, but it was emphasized yesterday that the decision to start coverage by showing the January 23 debate was the broadcasters' alone.

Officially the six-month experiment starts on January 21 but the House's business on that and the following day was not thought likely to provide exciting viewing.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$12, Canada \$12, France £10, Germany £10, Hong Kong \$12, India \$12, Italy £10, Japan \$12, New Zealand \$12, Norway \$12, Portugal \$12, Singapore \$12, South Africa \$12, Sweden \$12, Switzerland \$12, Taiwan \$12, Thailand \$12, USA \$12, West Germany £10, Yugoslavia \$12.

Ferry strike is limited

Cross-Channel travellers were said to be "taking a gamble", if they travelled.

Passengers at Folkestone were told that if the dispute spread to Boulogne they would have to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements because Sealink announced it would not be responsible for any costs incurred.

Other French ports were in operation and travellers, including those with cars, were getting across with little trouble, the RAC said. Day-trippers how-

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Low-key drink and drive campaign failed in many areas, police report

By David Cross

The Christmas and New Year campaign to reduce drinking and driving on Britain's roads failed miserably in several parts of the country, police forces reported yesterday.

In North Yorkshire, the number of positive breath tests rose by nearly 150 per cent to a total of 57 cases, compared with 23 in the same period of 1983.

Supt John Leman, of the police traffic department, said: "The 'stay low' campaign has definitely not worked. We had no special patrols out over the holidays and it only proves people took absolutely no notice of what was being said."

Instead of urging motorists not to drink alcohol during the holiday period, as it had in previous years, the Department of Transport last month urged motorists merely to cut back on consumption. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, was heavily criticized by road safety organizations, as well as by

several MPs for this low-key approach.

Describing the figures in North Yorkshire as "shocking", Supt Leman said that his force would in future deploy police cars outside public houses at closing time to deter potential offenders.

Nottinghamshire police also reported a large increase in the number of cases. Of 1,666 motorists who underwent breath tests, 108 are due to appear in court compared with 70 during the 1983 campaign. "Many motorists did not heed our advice and the majority of drivers breath-tested after an accident were young males with an average age of 22", Supt Roger Storey said.

In Sussex, where Mr Roger Birch, the chief constable, is chairman of the Association of Chief Constables, the number of cases also rose proportionately. A total of 275 people were arrested for being over the limit.

out of 920 people tested, compared with 288 in 1983 out of a total of 1,674 tests.

Hertfordshire Police say that 29 people have been charged with offences relating to drinking and driving. Between December 19 and January 1, 186 people were tested. Last year, 47 tests proved positive out of a total of 136.

In Bedfordshire the proportion of positive tests rose from one in 10 to one in four. Between December 16 and January 2, a total of 328 motorists were breath tested, of whom 79 were positive, and 20 refused to give a sample. Last year 81 were tested, 52 were positive and 16 refused.

In Derbyshire, 65 drivers are being considered for prosecution, out of 358 breath tests administered. It was the first time for seven years that police did not stage a special drink-drive campaign, and the figures compare with 48 positive tests out of 1,250 in 1983.

A concert of bears becomes the Barbican



A teddy bears' concert at the Barbican centre in London yesterday attracted some much-loved occupants of nurseries, children's bedrooms and not a few grown-ups' attics. The bears and their friends were treated to music including Coates' *Three Bears* suite (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Composer attacks school music cuts

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Cuts in music education in schools are attacking the roots of our civilization, Mr Peter Maxwell Davies, the composer told the North of England education conference yesterday.

They could lead to the decline of school county and eventually symphony orchestras, and to the loss of concert audiences. "In some counties, there is no more instrumental teaching in schools," he told the annual gathering of educationalists in Chester. "It has been ruthlessly cut altogether."

"We have not yet felt this at the level of the national symphony orchestras, but we will. We have hardly begun to feel its effect in the county youth orchestras, but this is happening. In many schools it is already a musical and social disaster."

Emphasizing that music had to be an integral part of education rather than an optional extra, paid for privately, as in France and Italy, Mr Maxwell Davies said that in Britain we had, throughout this century, until recently, built up a musical education system that was the envy of the world.

"We have in a way unprecedented and unparalleled in

most other countries in the world, brought to ordinary children the opportunity not only to sing and play and appreciate music in class, but to become members of choirs and orchestras within our school system, paid for by the state, with some contribution from parents where possible, and to have built up a broad and healthy foundation for the nation's musical life."

"This has involved the purchase of musical instruments by county council music departments for schools' use, and has necessitated salaries to be paid to peripatetic instrumental teachers, so that, to the amazement of visitors from France or Italy, for instance, many state schools have flourishing orchestras, brass bands, recorder groups, percussion groups, jazz bands, rock groups."

The composer added that "mean, short-sighted" policies were affecting other institutions such as the British Council, which is threatened by further cuts. Some officials saw it as a flagrant waste of money to send people such as him on jaunts overseas at the taxpayers' expense.

IBA ban on 'Life of Brian'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has banned Channel Four from showing the Monty Python film *The Life of Brian* because it may cause offence to Christians.

The decision on the film, a parody of the life of Christ, surprised Channel Four yesterday.

Mr Paul Bonner, programme controller, said: "It is a film which has both strengths and weaknesses but it is an imaginative and witty piece by people who in their time were a marvellous bunch of satirists."

With the kind of inverted wit which typified the film and the television programme which preceded it, the Monty Python team confined itself to a brief

statement supporting the IBA decision.

The five-year-old film, which was due to be shown after 9am towards the end of the year, was viewed by IBA officials who have told Channel Four that it cannot be shown on television in any form.

The IBA said yesterday: "We thought that broadly speaking the whole concept of it would create a degree of discontent among people who felt that it was an unsuitable subject. It would undoubtedly cause offence to a large number of practising Christians and, perhaps, people of other faiths."

Mr Bonner said that he hoped the IBA would recon-

sider the decision at a future date.

The IBA has been involved in litigation with the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association over the showing of the film *Scum*. The IBA is taking the matter to the Court of Appeal in March. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the organization's president, said yesterday that she welcomed the decision to bar the showing of *The Life of Brian*.

The IBA has banned the showing of an advertising campaign for Commodore computers which features an elephant in a boxing ring after complaints from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Scargill and Thatcher top poll

By Our Arts Correspondent

Mr Arthur Scargill and Mrs Margaret Thatcher are enjoying a brief moment of shared acclaim today as the winners of the BBC *Radio Today* programme's annual poll.

Most listeners voted for Mr Scargill as man of the year, although several also wrote on their entry postcards that they had a personal dislike for the miners' leader. Mrs Thatcher won the woman of the year title, announced today, by an even greater margin.

The poll attracted several thousand entries.

Fire in which child died 'deliberate'

Kelly Pauline Lindup, aged three, died when her home was deliberately set on fire, Lancashire police said yesterday.

They brought in help from a neighbouring force to investigate the fire, which is believed to have been caused by paraffin being thrown through the front door of the child's home. The child was in an upstairs front bedroom of the semi-detached house in Lynton Road, Tyldesley, Greater Manchester, when fire broke out late on New Year's Day.

Her mother, Catherine, aged 27, rescued her two other children, Leon, aged five, and Paul, aged four months.

Alison Cook, aged 12, saved the lives of her younger brother and sister when fire swept through their home early yesterday, killing the children's mother.

She lowered John, aged six, and Julie, aged seven, from the upstairs bedroom window of their terrace council house in Maypole Drive, Girvan, Ayrshire, dropping them into the arms of neighbours.

Mrs Pat Daley, aged 29, and her daughter Janice, aged two, died in a fire at their home in Hallows Avenue, Chorlton cum Hardy, Greater Manchester yesterday.

Surgery on teeth brings back sight

By Patricia Clough

A blind youth, who left his workplace before Christmas to have impacted wisdom teeth extracted, returned to his desk yesterday with his sight restored.

Mr Kirby, aged 20, from Hindhead in Surrey, who had been blind for five years, underwent an operation for impacted teeth in the Holy Cross Hospital, Haslemere, on December 18. As he emerged from the anaesthetic he told the nurse he could see light.

By yesterday, when he returned to his work in the typing pool of Waverley Borough Council, he could read and recognize people, although he could not distinguish colours.

Mr Kirby went gradually blind as a teenager as a result of cone dystrophy, which affects the photo sensitive area at the back of the eyes.

Star 'improving'

Surgeons in Sheffield who sewed back the left arm of Rick Allen, the drummer with pop group Def Leppard, said yesterday that his condition had slightly improved. His girl friend, Miss Miriam Burrows, who suffered head injuries in the crash on New Year's Eve, left the Royal Hallamshire Hospital yesterday.

Actress divorce

Barbara Windsor, aged 47, the actress, was granted a special procedure divorce by a judge in London yesterday on the grounds that she and her husband, Mr Ronnie Knight, aged 51, have lived apart for more than two years.

Train death

A third person died yesterday after the Salford train crash in Greater Manchester on December 4. He was Mr Stanley Hodson, aged 57, of Dingle Road, Tranmere, Merseyside.

Murder 'a bungled robbery'

The New Year's Eve murder of wealthy fashion designer Aristos Constantinou was the result of a robbery, "that went very badly wrong," police investigators said yesterday.

A post-mortem examination showed that Mr Constantinou had been shot seven times by a .25 calibre revolver, perhaps after an attempt to overcome his killer, who had been waiting for Mr Constantinou and his wife to return to their home in Bishop's Avenue, Hampstead, from a party.

Police estimate that at least two men, one of them wearing a children's monster mask, had managed to get in the back door, past the elaborate burglar alarm system, and tried to force Mr Constantinou to open two safes. One containing several thousand pounds, had been emptied when police arrived, but another containing foreign currency, had been opened, but no money taken.

The police are also investigating the possibility that the murder was premeditated. Mr Constantinou's Wood Green factory had been broken into early last year, in what was called an act of "industrial sabotage", and workers at the plant said they thought the Hampstead break-in had not been merely a robbery.

£142 spent weekly by households

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The average household spent £142.59 a week in 1983, according to figures from the Department of Employment. Its gross pre-tax income was £187.86. Food took up 20.7 per cent of the average household budget, mortgages and rent 16.8 per cent, household and other goods 14.3 per cent, transport 14.7 per cent, alcohol and tobacco 7.8 per cent and clothing and footwear 7 per cent.

The results, derived from the report of the 1983 Family Expenditure Survey, include wide variations within the average, both between regions and between types of household.

Ownership of consumer durables and facilities increased in 1983. The proportion of households with telephones increased to 77 per cent and those with central heating to 64 per cent. In 1979, the figures were 67 per cent and 55 per cent respectively.

Telephone availability ranged from 60 per cent of households in Northern Ireland to 84 per cent in the south-east of England.

Most households, 62 per cent, have the use of a car, 14 per cent two or more.

Rumpus over children's home

By Colin Hughes

Teignmouth, the seaside resort in Devon where landlords and restaurant owners once campaigned against having too many holidaymakers who were mentally handicapped, is being criticised again, for rejecting an application to open a residential home for Down's Syndrome children.

Teignbridge district planning committee has rejected an application to convert a 15-bedroom hotel, the Ravens, on the grounds that its garden is too steep for the children, and its position among private houses would make the school a noise nuisance.

The applicants, Mr and Mrs Barry Silkstone, who run a similar home in Bristol, are appealing against the decision and seeking support from Mencap, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. They point out that the council's planning officials recommended accept-

ance, and gave no grounds of either safety or noise on which to reject it.

Mr Bill May, chairman of the planning committee, said that the fact the children were mentally handicapped had "nothing to do" with the rejection. "We had substantial objections from neighbours that the site was unsuitable. Down's Syndrome children are well known for being affectionate and enthusiastic, and it was thought that the noise and the risks of a steeply-sloping garden would not suit this type of residential school."

The planning committee would look favourably on an application to open a school elsewhere in Teignmouth, and the decision had "no connection whatever" with the dispute two years ago, he said.

That blow up when landlords and restaurant owners refused to serve mentally handicapped people, claiming that other holidaymakers were turning

away from the town because its largest hotel, the Royal, had started running special holidays for the mentally handicapped.

Mr Brian Rix, secretary general of Mencap, visited Teignmouth in an attempt to defuse the dispute, but members of the local chamber of commerce claimed that the bad publicity caused a 50 per cent drop in visitors.

Yesterday Mr Rix said that Mencap was waiting to hear from the Silkstones before investigating.

Mr Rod Ballard, chairman of Exeter Special Needs Housing Group, said that the Silkstones were professionals, "in a much better position than councillors to judge what is best for mentally handicapped children in terms of safety needs."

He said he thought it "sad and pathetic" that anyone should think the children would cause extra difficulty to neighbours.

By 1991 discharges of long-life radioactivity from Sellafield will be less than 1% of the 1973 level.

1973

1985

1991

British Nuclear Fuels plc has just committed a £150 million investment to cut discharges of radioactivity into the Irish Sea.

By 1991 discharges of long-life radioactivity, including plutonium, will be down to less than 6% of today's levels.

This latest project is part of a continuing long-term programme which has already achieved impressive results.

So the 1991 level will be less than 1% of the peak discharge level recorded in the early 1970s.

British Nuclear Fuels has to comply with discharge limits imposed by the Government.

We have done so well in cutting our discharges that these limits are being reduced.

We are committed to doing even better in the future.

Committed to getting our discharges down to the lowest practicable level.

A level that will match the best achieved by any comparable nuclear reprocessing plant in the world.

For further information write to: Information Services, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

BNFL

Cabinet papers of 1954: 2

US 'main threat to peace'

Thirty years ago in the privacy of the Cabinet room Lord Salisbury, the leading Tory in the House of Lords, said that the Americans were a greater threat to the peace of the world than the Russians.

The marquis, who threatened to resign from Sir Winston Churchill's Government because of the old man's penchant for personal diplomacy, said the unity of the Western alliance was of paramount importance to Britain but there was a danger of the Americans forcing a showdown with the Soviet Union and bringing about nuclear war.

The minute, included in a separate batch of papers deemed even more confidential than regular Cabinet discussions, says: "Some believed that the greatest threat to world peace came from Russians. He (Salisbury) himself believed that the greater risk was that the United States might decide to bring the East-West issue to a head while they still had overwhelming superiority in atomic weapons and were comparatively immune from atomic attack by Russia."

Lord Salisbury, in the Cabinet as Lord President of the Council and scribe of one of the Conservative Party's grandest

Cabinet papers declassified on January 1 under the 30-year rule protecting official papers, show Sir Winston Churchill as an ardent seeker after détente with the Russians and the British Cabinet deeply suspicious of American nuclear superiority, DAVID WALKER reports.

houses, appears to have been expressing a widely held view. Sir Anthony Eden, then Foreign Secretary, emerges from the secret discussions as a strong critic of American policy and particularly of the belligerence of his counterpart, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

The Foreign Secretary urged his colleagues to resist Mr Dulles's desire for a "dramatic gesture" to prevent the Vietnamese communists led by Ho Chi Minh expelling the French from the Red River Delta in North Vietnam. Sir Anthony said Vietnam should be partitioned and refused Mr Dulles's request for joint Anglo-American military involvement (for example, bombing raids by carrier-borne aircraft) on the side of the French.

Neither Lord Salisbury nor Sir Anthony Eden were "soft" on communism; the Foreign Secretary was particularly anxious about the possibility of the Japanese linking their technical skills and entrepre-

neurial drive with Chinese manpower, creating a "decisive shift in the world balance of power".

Lord Salisbury objected to Churchill - by then 80 years old - behaving as he had during the Second World War, conducting personal negotiations with other world leaders.

Sir Winston was evidently torn. He was much affected by the awesome power of the hydrogen bomb, revealed at Bikini Atoll in March 1954. Coming back from talks with President Eisenhower in June, the Prime Minister launched a one-man attempt to start talks with the Soviet leader, Mr Georgi Malenkov. Memoirs from that summer show him both unhappy with American aggressiveness yet fearful of a withdrawal by the United States into an "agonized reappraisal" of its commitments to Europe.

Unlike his Labour predecessor, Mr Clement Attlee, he put the matter of nuclear

weapons before the full Cabinet, allowing lengthy discussion of both the cost and ethics of Britain's producing its own hydrogen bomb. Future historians may see the Cabinet meetings of July 1954 as the sole occasion since Britain became a nuclear power that ministers talked frankly about the morality of nuclear weapons.

The passion of the debate shows through even the dry minutes taken by Sir Norman Brook, Secretary of the Cabinet. Was it morally right that we should manufacture weapons with this vast destructive power?

However, it was pointed out that the moral principle against nuclear weapons had been breached when the Labour government decided to make the first British atomic bomb. "The further point was made that, if we were ready to accept the protection offered by our own nuclear weapons, no greater moral wrong was involved in making them ourselves."

In late July 1954, the Cabinet gave permission to go ahead, but left the public announcement of Britain's hydrogen bomb until the defence White Paper of 1955.

Churchill backs tea makers

Amid the high politics and diplomacy of 1954, Sir Winston Churchill found time to concern himself with the fate of 400 "char-wallahs" supplying tea and other vital services in British troops stationed in Malaya.

In a terse telegram despatched to General Sir Gerald Templer, the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya, Churchill drew on his unparalleled experience of the British Empire to say "they have been faithful to us for a long time, which is more than a lot of people have."

An issue arose when the Naaif, ordered by Whitehall to increase its revenues dismissed several of the char-wallahs ("chahwala" in Hindi) and prevented others from gaining access to barracks.

Thanks to Sir Winston's intervention, the compromise was reached allowing the char-wallahs to operate during the hours when the Naaif was shut.

Basements as A-bomb shelters

Since it was discovered that the Russians possessed atomic bombs the British Government had pursued a policy of encouraging builders to make provision for basements that could double as shelters.

The explosion in March 1954 of the first hydrogen bomb by the Americans - a weapon of much greater power - made things difficult, the Cabinet was told.

Mr David Eccles, Minister of Works, circulated a plaintive memorandum saying his job of persuading the developers of buildings more than four storeys in height to plan for shelters had always been difficult. "But since the explosion on 1st March some owners do not think the extra expense is worth incurring."

Tomorrow: Princess Margaret and the destroyers

New look coins are minted

From Tim Jones, Cardiff
The first 50p and 10p coins to bear the new effigy of the Queen by Mr Raphael Markluff were minted yesterday at the Royal Mint, Llantrisant.

All coins will eventually display the effigy, a more mature image than the one which first appeared on coins in Britain in 1968.

The new effigy marks a return of the coupé busts (cut off above the shoulders) which were used during the first half of the century.

The Queen is shown on the new coins with her head and shoulders. She is also wearing a necklace and drop earrings.

Mr Markluff's design was chosen from 35 models submitted by 17 British and Commonwealth artists. He was granted a sitting by the Queen to make minor adjustments to the portraits.

The author, Anthony Powell, writes: "To spend public money on education and tax books is a contradiction in terms."

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, writes that the tax would damage literature seriously. "The small bookseller already has difficulty in surviving, and many small, new booksellers close every year. There is no margin for an additional tax."



Olympic athletes marry

Two Olympic athletes, Richard Slaney, aged 28, Britain's discus record holder, and Mary Decker, aged 26, the US distance runner, enter the reception after their private wedding attended by prominent athletes in the First United Methodist Church in Eugene, Oregon, on Tuesday evening. It was the second marriage for Miss Decker, who wore traditional white satin. Her first, to the

American marathon runner Ron Tabb, ended in divorce in 1983.

At the Los Angeles Olympics last year Slaney helped the weeping and injured Miss Decker from the 3,000 metres track after her collision with Zola Budd, the South African-born runner competing for Britain. The couple plan another ceremony in Britain next month and will live in Eugene.

Hong Kong begins looking on the brighter side

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

The New Year marks Hong Kong's entry into politically uncharted waters, but its economy shows every sign of making a fast recovery from the uncertainty of the recent past.

Elections are to be organized - if only indirect ones - to appoint new local representatives who will then choose candidates to draft new laws for the territory. Professional and business people will also have the chance to elect new members of the Legislative Council.

Meanwhile, Chinese officials and possibly some Hong Kong representatives will work out the new "basic law" which is to become the constitution of the Hong Kong "special administrative region" under Chinese sovereignty in 1997. And a joint liaison group of British and Chinese officials will monitor progress towards the goal of an internally autonomous Hong Kong.

Having little prior experience of the electoral process, voters will be faced with a wide choice of candidates for the district boards, which are the lowest-level administrative units and are particularly important in rural areas and new towns. The

Illegal crossings almost double

Hong Kong (AFP) - Security forces here arrested 9,732 illegal immigrants from China in 1984, almost double the 4,814 a government spokesman said yesterday.

Officials attributed the increase to rumours in China of an amnesty for illegal immigrants in Hong Kong around the time of the initialing in September of the Sino-British agreement on the colony.

urban council will also continue to provide a forum for elected representatives.

One aim is to have an electorate capable of responsibly electing a local person as Governor by 1977. Whether any Chinese resident will be appointed Governor before then is doubtful, as Britain intends to administer Hong Kong firmly and independently in the meantime.

China has shown itself less than pleased with the British proposals for expanding representative government, but has so far thrown up no alternative ideas. In any political tussle in Hong Kong, Peking's favoured

candidates may come to the fore and probably dominate the scene if other political tendencies show signs of becoming powerful.

Despite the anxieties and uncertainties of many residents, the local reaction to the new Sino-British agreement has been sanguine, even buoyant. Peking has promised Hong Kong 50 years of capitalism and British-style laws after 1997, and very few people are looking beyond that date.

The Hong Kong dollar, which has been linked to the US dollar for over a year to prevent wild fluctuations, is strong.

Department stores reported good sales before Christmas, in contrast with the previous year, when trade was depressed. The general public have reverted to their familiar topics and grievances - roads, rents, bureaucracy, and pollution.

Amidst the general air of euphoria, however, many people, especially the young, are desperately anxious about their chances of either leaving Hong Kong by 1997 or getting used to living there as a part of China, with their children only eligible for Chinese passports. This makes them timid about speaking out politically, for they are afraid of being victimized.

Although the municipality says it has restored ownership of 90 per cent of confiscated housing to the original proprietors, it will take four or five years to vacate and return all the occupied living-space.

A new start for Singapore

Punks' debut a signal for Lee

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Singapore's press last week reported the appearance of what were called "groups of the youths in punk clothes" among the island's normally conformist and immaculately presented young people.

There has never been a welcome here for decadent trends from the West - short hair is no less *de rigueur* than it was during the anti-hippie campaign of the 1970s - and the punks' debut was noted in duly censorious tone. But the manifestation was not inappropriate at a time when young Singaporeans are being associated for the first time with rebellion against the old order.

Despite the constantly rising standard of living, the smart shopping precincts and the official promise of plenty more affluence to come, young voters in significant numbers rejected Mr Lee Kuan Yew and his People's Action Party at last month's election.

For the father of modern Singapore the vote was confirmation of fears he has long held: that the greatest threat to his highly disciplined city state is posed not by outside forces but by a generation which, as he is fond of saying, has grown up "soft" with no knowledge of sacrifice or hardship.

Generally though, younger PAP politicians and the compliant local media have been

shocked into accepting that they failed to recognize - or report - the warning signs, and are questioning how to get back in touch with the disaffected.

In a post mortem on the election results *The Straits Times*, the main English-language daily, reported that on hearing the result a young professional uncorked a bottle of champagne and toasted "the humbling of the mighty PAP".

The story aptly illustrates the widespread resentment, particularly among the affluent young, against a party which, after 25 years of unfettered power, tends to patronize a mature electorate with finger-wagging admonitions and lectures on self-improvement.

Matters have not been improved by Mr Lee's response to what he called coercion by the electorate with a threat to modify universal adult suffrage.

Over the past week *The Straits Times* has featured letters from a number of mainly young readers reflecting rare criticism of Mr Lee's views, his threats and by implication the Prime Minister himself.

One stated that PAP leaders had become dinosaurs, facing backwards. It went on: "There are new challenges ahead. Rally the people (not threaten them) and adapt. The Old Guard have realized their dreams, let us realize ours."

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, said at his hair-appearance and a new Cabinet were sworn in yesterday that after playing striker for more than 20 years he was retiring to the goal line (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Lee pointed out that seven of the 12 cabinet ministers were in their 40s, including Mr Goh Chok Tong, the new First Deputy Prime Minister, who is likely to succeed him in four years.

The team would be further strengthened by still younger men, now in their 30s, who have been appointed ministers of state.

Although he did not mention his son by name, Brigadier Lee

Luxuries back on Chinese shelves

Peking (Reuters) - China's ruling communists, pressing ahead with a radical programme of change, promised yesterday that consumer goods such as refrigerators, washing machines and bicycles, once considered luxuries, would be easier to buy this year.

The Communist Party's theoretical journal, *Red Flag*, reassuring readers that growing consumerism was not incompatible with socialism, said it should be encouraged.

In a new year policy statement, Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, announced pay rises for state employees in several sectors, including science, technology, culture, education and public health.

It was published in papers yesterday and indicated the pay increases would come before price rises for certain industrial goods.

China subsidizes almost all aspects of clothing, transport, food and housing. The subsidies account for at least 25 per cent of total government spending and Mr Zhao has served notice they must be cut.

The move is the latest in a series of radical economic reforms introduced by the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, over the past six years that have set the country on a new course away from the Soviet-style centrally planned economy under the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Mr Zhao announced that mandatory state purchases of major agricultural products, one of the pillars of Mao's collective system introduced 30 years ago, would be abandoned this year.

Mr Yang Bo, a light industry ministry official, was quoted in the *China Daily* as saying China would step up production this year of washing machines, refrigerators and quality bicycles.

All three items were considered luxuries until recently, but demand for them is growing as the country becomes more prosperous under Mr Deng. Mr Yang admitted in an interview with the paper that some unspecified goods would still be in short supply.

● **BACK RENTS:** The Peking municipality has earmarked the equivalent of £250 million as back rents for people expelled from their homes during the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s (David Bonavia writes).

An official report says that some 20 million square feet of new housing space will have to be built to accommodate people who suffered in this way during the left-wing rampage organized by supporters of Chairman Mao.

Although the municipality says it has restored ownership of 90 per cent of confiscated housing to the original proprietors, it will take four or five years to vacate and return all the occupied living-space.

Another writer complained that he and a group of fellow young graduates had raised issues at a get-together with ministers in the hope of being heard, but instead had been lectured and even challenged to leave the country.

Young Singaporeans critical of the PAP tend to identify with Mr Chiam See Tong, leader of the Singapore Democratic Party, who campaigned against what he termed the drift towards totalitarianism. Mr Chiam's election as one of two opposition MPs was greeted with scenes of jubilation rare in local politics.

It would be premature, however, to see in the newly assertive voice of Singapore's young the decline of the PAP. The inclination here is to co-opt rather than confront.

Mr Chiam said he will work with the PAP when he believes it is in the national interest and many of those now admitting that they voted for the opposition say they did so only in protest and not because they wanted any alternative in power.

Nevertheless, one young voter wrote: "If at the end of the next election the vote swings further away from the Government it will not mean the one-man-one-vote system has failed us, but that the Government has."

An academic by background, he has had experience in the ministries of defence, health and trade and industry.

He was organizing secretary of the People's Action Party election campaign, and although he has acknowledged that the party grossly misjudged the electorate's mood, which brought a 12.6 per cent swing to the opposition last week, his prospects have not apparently been blighted.

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Hong Kong defences run down

For 30 years before the recent treaty with China, Hong Kong had only minimal defences against a communist invasion. Cabinet records released this week show.

In April 1954, Sir Winston Churchill's Cabinet made the ultra-secret decision to abandon defence of the colony, a decision so sensitive that even the Governor of Hong Kong was not to be told. Hong Kong troop strength was to be run down to the level needed only for "internal security". The Cabinet also decided that the Americans should not be told about the withdrawal, a reflection of the growing rift between the allies.

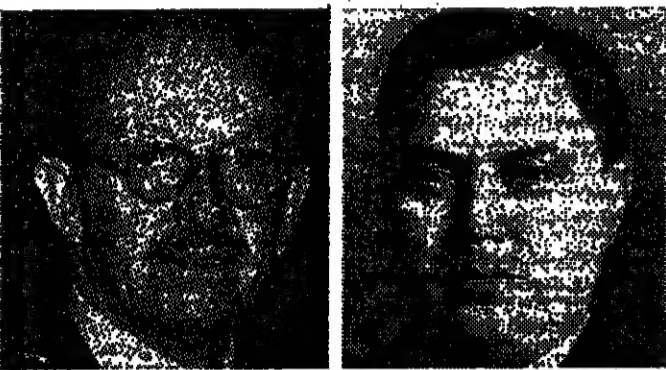
Minutes of Cabinet discussions imply that the decisions about Hong Kong were taken on the grounds of economy: during the year Sir Winston twice asked his defence ministers to scour their estimates for savings.

But memorandums from the chiefs of staff continued to give warnings about the Chinese communists. "The Far East is the present focus of communist aggression and every effort should be made to drive a wedge between Russia and communist China," they advised in a strategic reappraisal prepared for the Cabinet after the Americans successfully tested the first hydrogen bomb.

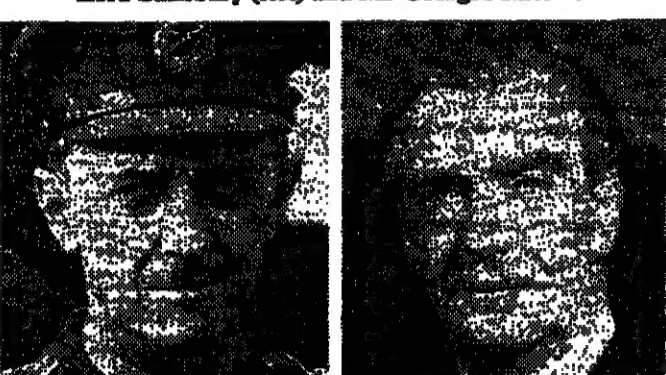
The chief of staff put the defence of Malaya - already the target of communist insurgency - at the top of a list of strategic objectives, but historians may now speculate whether a Chinese invasion of Hong Kong would have prompted the British Government to enlist American aid, possibly in the form of nuclear weapons.

The chief of staff talked about developing "stable government" in Britain's still extensive colonies but the record for 1954 shows trouble brewing on several fronts.

References by Americans to "self determination" were considered most unhelpful as that



Lord Salisbury (left) and Mr Georgi Malenkov.



General Sir Gerald Templer and Sir Anthony Eden.



Archbishop Makarios and Mr John Foster Dulles.

was a code phrase used by opponents of British colonial rule. Already in 1954, as extensive plans were being drawn up for military action in Egypt should freedom of navigation be interrupted in the Suez Canal, there were signs of the damaging difference of view between Washington and London that caused Sir Anthony Eden, Sir Winston's successor as Prime Minister, to abort the British invasion of Egypt.

Greek nationalists were causing trouble in Cyprus. The Cabinet minutes show Sir Winston coming down hard on the BBC for permitting Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader to be interviewed without Colonial Office clearance.

Sir Winston had, notably during the general strike of 1926, wanted to put the BBC on a much tighter leash.

BL case for state aid backed

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

British Leyland's case for further government funding is reinforced in an independent report out today. It shows that an increasing amount of official and unofficial government aid is going to BL's European rivals.

France's loss-making Renault group is reported to be receiving more than £300 million of state funds in one form or another, in the three years to next December. It will enable the state-owned company to introduce at least one new car a year for the next five years. It has already made a start with the new Renault 5 and Renault 25 luxury saloon.

Austin Rover has told the Government that it also needs several hundred million pounds of state funds to develop the next generation of new cars, and to continue its promising recovery. Project XX, the replacement for the big Rover saloon due in about a year, will be the last Austin Rover model developed with existing government funds.

A second French car maker, the privately owned Peugeot concern, has been forced to swallow its pride. After resisting government help for the past 18 months it is now seeking £180 million this year to finance the modernization of its plant at Aulnay-sous-Bois for the production of a new Citroën mini, the ZX.

The report, prepared by Professor Krish Bhaskar and his motor industry research team at the University of East Anglia in Norwich says: "The crisis facing many motor manufacturers due to low profitability and a need for massive investment has meant a greater demand for state support."

Using all available resources he has built up a comprehensive picture of state aid throughout Europe. It underlines the "back door" methods of providing government support through a complex network of regional grants, cheap loans, new technology grants, and import controls, to avoid action by the European Commission to limit

unfair nation aid. Even such profitable concerns as Daimler Benz and BMW Germany are not above seeking government money. It is believed BMW receive up to £42 million from the Bavarian state government to build its new plant at Regensburg.

Daimler Benz, the third largest company in Germany, and generally regarded as one of the strongest motor groups in the world, is said to take advantage of the government-backed Berlin Promotions Scheme to make long-term borrowings at very favourable interest rates.

The report describes as "unlikely" BL's chances of obtaining more state funds on top of the £2.3 billion it has received since 1975. "However, in a crisis and if political pressure was brought to bear, the government might be prepared to assist", it concludes.

"State Aid to the European Motor Industry" (University of East Anglia £95).

VAT on books cultural disaster, authors say

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The possible introduction of value-added tax on books and publications in the next Budget has been condemned by a broad political spectrum of writers in the latest edition of the newsletter of The Society of Authors.

In an editorial in the magazine, the society says that such a tax "would be little short of a cultural, social and educational disaster".

Applying VAT to books would not only be an act of shameful philistinism, the body

argues, but also a "spectacle of singularly destructive stupidity".

It is hard to understand why such a measure should be seriously considered by a British government except one suffering from a kind of spiritual arthritis and ideological myopia once unknown at the top of the Conservative Party.

The magazine publishes the views of a wide range of writers on the introduction of VAT.

The historian Lord Briggs writes: "... I contemplate the possibility of... with horror.

Britain's record in publishing, in critical reviewing, in library development and in everything that used to be called 'bookmanship' is part of the mainstream of our cultural tradition. To introduce VAT would be to put history into reverse. It would be like reenacting the old taxes on knowledge."

The poet, Philip Larkin, says that, as a Conservative, he hopes that the tax will not be introduced. If it is, "it will seriously antagonize an extremely articulate and influential section of the

community, and the resulting damage would far outweigh the additional revenue so generated."

The author, Anthony Powell, writes: "To spend public money on education and tax books is a contradiction in terms."

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, writes that the tax would damage literature seriously. "The small bookseller already has difficulty in surviving, and many small, new booksellers close every year. There is no margin for an additional tax."

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Cambodian guerrillas hitting back

Ampl. Cambodia (Reuters) - With rapidly increasing confidence in their ability to match the superior arms of the Vietnamese forces, non-communist guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) yesterday launched a series of counter-attacks on camps near the Thai border occupied or surrounded by the Vietnamese during the past few weeks.

Just before sunset, guerrillas launched a fresh attack against Vietnamese forces inside Nong Samet camp, one of the largest border bases, and mortar and artillery explosions could be heard throughout the camp.

The attack was led by General Dien Del, KPNLF leader whose offer of a \$100 bounty on any Vietnam tank destroyed or disabled - "Kill a tank and win a prize" - has brought hundreds of volunteers into his ranks. Three young guerrillas who blew the trend off a Soviet-built T54 in Nong Samet on Christmas Day were the first to claim the prize, although General Dien Del does not yet know quite where he is going to find the money.

Until recently, KPNLF guerrillas had a few anti-tank weapons, effective only at dangerously close quarters, but the situation has changed with the success of Nong Samet and the arrival in the last few weeks of new Chinese-made B40 rocket-propelled grenades. The guerrillas' morale has soared and they are now engaged in some of the fiercest fighting since Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1978.

The KPNLF has been fighting the Vietnamese for five years. They are in an uneasy alliance with the Khmer Rouge (communist) rebels and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former head of the Cambodian state, whose "coalition government" is recognized by the United Nations.

The KPNLF claim that the success of their counter-attacks over the last few weeks of the year has raised some of the pressure against the Khmer Rouge claim that their own attacks have blunted the push by Vietnam and Cambodian government forces.

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Kidnap case policeman reveals vodka plot to blacken priest's name

The Polish secret policeman accused of murdering Father Jerzy Popieluszko planned to force him to swallow a bottle of vodka, prise the names of underground contacts from him while he was drunk and compromise him in the eyes of Catholic believers and the Solidarity opposition, a Torun court was told yesterday.

Private Waldemar Chmielewski, one of the four policemen charged with killing the radical priest - already regarded as a Solidarity martyr - took the stand yesterday and pleaded guilty to kidnapping Father Popieluszko and attempting to cause a car accident, but innocent of murder.

The former lieutenant, a 29-year-old career secret policeman and political scientist by training, told the court he assumed the operation against the priest had the backing of at least the director general of his department or a deputy minister.

Private Chmielewski has been the most visibly nervous of the four defendants, his face twitching uncontrollably. When he started to testify yesterday he began to stammer so badly that few people in the crammed courtroom could understand him.

"Were you born with the stammer?" asked the judge, evidently frustrated.

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

"No, it started after the Popieluszko case," said the private, who was arrested a matter of days after the kidnapping and murder on October 19.

Private Chmielewski said he was called to the office of his immediate superior, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, in September and told there was an "atmosphere in the management" of the ministry running hostile to Father Popieluszko and other political priests.

Captain Piotrowski - now the main defendant - said the secret police had to adapt to the ways of the "enemy" and asked for suggestions.

The lieutenant, as he was then, proposed that Father Popieluszko be taken to a forest bunker and frightened into revealing his contacts. Soon the plan took on another dimension - vodka would be poured down the priest's throat which would make confession flow more easily.

He could later be dumped drunk in a place that would destroy his reputation.

The plan was never put into effect - though a litre of vodka was discovered in the getaway car. A priest during the kidnapping led to his death.

The high level connections - mentioned in the earlier testimony of another accused kidnapper, the former Lieutenant Leszek Pekala - entered the case when Chmielewski began to wonder what would happen if the priest had a heart attack during the mission. He raised the fear with Captain Piotrowski who said he would have to consult his senior officers.

After some delay Captain Piotrowski said the high level decision had been taken - in case the priest died, his body should "disappear".

Apologising for the delay, Captain Piotrowski said his commanding officer, Colonel Adam Pietruszka (the fourth defendant, charged with complicity) had in the colonel's words, "to get in touch with the top". Chmielewski assumed this meant either the director of the department - the currently suspended General Zenon Plek - or one of the five deputy interior ministers.

While watching outside a church in Gdansk on October 12, waiting for the go-ahead to stage an early attack on the priest, Chmielewski saw Captain Piotrowski radio to headquarters to ask for any orders to be countermanded.

A voice on the radio - which Chmielewski recognized as that of General Plek - replied: "You are talking to the wrong person, but there is no news for you."

Leading article, page 11

Budget deficit looms again over Congress

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The 99th Congress officially convenes today to face a complex legislative agenda dominated by concern over a budget deficit of about \$200 billion (£170 billion).

President Reagan can expect some tough battles. There is every chance that Congress will refuse to grant permission for further production of the controversial MX missile. Mr Reagan will face stiff opposition to a renewed request to finance anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua, who received direct US aid until Congress cut it off last May.

Politically sensitive issues like farm subsidies, housing aid, food programmes and environmental projects will all conflict with the effort to reduce the deficit. The administration will

press for wide-ranging tax simplification, including reductions in income tax rates financed by the proposed elimination of many popular projects.

Congress may once more take up a comprehensive immigration bill. A huge new fund for cleaning up hazardous wastes, civil rights, anti-satellite weapons, banking deregulation and the nomination of Mr Edwin Meese as Attorney-General are likely to be important issues.

The Senate Republicans have a new leader, Mr Robert Dole, who has promised to work with the White House. But he is at odds with it over one key issue - his insistence that there should be big reductions in projected military spending.

Reagan to lose old Cabinet ally

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan is faced with a Cabinet reshuffle after the decision of Mr William Clark, his long-time friend, to resign as Interior Secretary in the next few months.

White House officials said yesterday that Mr Clark told the President of his plan to resign at a meeting on Monday in Palm Springs, California.

Mr Clark, aged 53, a lawyer, will be the second Cabinet minister to leave the Administration since President Reagan's re-election in November. Mr Terrell Bell, the Education Secretary, said in November he was returning to private life.

Mr Clark was quoted as saying that his task at the Interior Department was substantially complete.



Festive ceasefire: Salvadorean guerrillas celebrate in a deserted town during the three-day holiday truce between the Army and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Michael Binyon looks at contrasting attitudes in West Germany

The ugly: Child abuse at alarming level

Last year several hundred children in West Germany were beaten to death, some 30,000 were mistreated and more than 100 committed suicide, according to sobering statistics just published by the German Children's Aid Society.

In addition 6,000 school-age children were treated by doctors for regular alcohol abuse, 57,000 were living in homes because they were orphans or had been taken into care, and more children were killed on the roads than in any other country.

West Germany has the lowest birth-rate in the world, and politicians have often warned against society's public hostility to children. But the statistics for child abuse show that this is a more serious problem than in most European countries.

In Britain, for example, according to provisional figures for 1983, only some 6,700 children were physically abused, 92 were murdered or died of injuries inflicted

on them and 37,900 were taken into care.

In publishing the gruesome statistics the Children's Aid Society said it would campaign in the coming year against child abuse under the slogan "Our children are our future".

The total of 30,000 cases of mistreatment reported to police is roughly the same as the figure for last year, and has led to considerable unease among psychologists and social workers. High unemployment has been blamed, along with alcohol abuse, the growth of big cities and the lack of provision for children in new housing developments.

Stress and tensions within families are also blamed for the high suicide rate. According to a report 18 months ago by the Würzburg University children's clinic, one in four children considers suicide at some stage, and the actual incidence among children aged between 10 and 15 went up

by almost a quarter in the 1970s.

Figures issued by the German League for the Protection of Children showed that a third of all West German children live in homes that are too small and dark without proper areas to play in.

Two out of every three children in cities have only the streets to play in, and every year some 70,000 are involved in traffic accidents, of which 1,000 die.

The league also said the incidence of abuse was far higher than the 30,000 reported cases, and that about 1.5 million children were physically mistreated in West Germany each year.

Every week there are an alarming number of what are called "family tragedies" in the Federal Republic - cases of mothers or fathers strangling or shooting their children and then often themselves in acts of despair over the future.

The optimistic: A good year expected by many

A television poll has shown that more West Germans than before are looking forward to the new year with optimism. This coincides with a forecast that this year is going to be a good one for the federal republic.

The poll, commissioned for a new satellite television news service, showed that 25 per cent

of those questioned thought their personal situation in 1985 would be better than last year, compared with 20 per cent in 1984 and 13 per cent in 1983. Only 12 per cent think things will be worse for them this year. More than half do not envisage any change.

Some 18 per cent think the international situation will be

largely peaceful, twice as many as the year before, but fewer than 25 per cent who expect several international crises.

Chancellor Kohl had much the same message in his new year address. He looked back with satisfaction at 1984 and said there was no cause for pessimism in 1985. He took particular credit for West

Germany's remarkable economic recovery.

Another poll showed that last year's debate about German reunification has strongly encouraged the idea of a reunited non-aligned Germany. More than half of all Germans would now support this, with 24 per cent against.

Andes hunt for missing US jet in Bolivia

La Paz, Bolivia (AP) - US and Bolivian planes searched the Andes yesterday for an Eastern Airlines jet from Paraguay with 33 people on board that disappeared ten minutes before its scheduled landing at La Paz.

A US government plane scanned the crevices and passes of the Andes but found no trace of the Boeing 727. Heavy clouds hampered the searchers, who thought they spotted wreckage but after a closer look decided they had been mistaken.

Bolivian Air Force planes joined the hunt concentrated in the Bacon region of Cochabamba state, about 60 miles south of the Bolivian capital. Seven of those on the missing plane are Americans.

Anti-bomb win

Perth (AP) - The tiny Nuclear Disarmament Party appeared to have won its first seat in Australia's Federal Senate after the incumbent senator, Mr Jack Evans of the Australian Democrats, conceded defeat, as counting from the election continued. He sent congratulations to Mr Jo Valentine, who takes over Western Australia's seat.

Wanted man

Rome (AP) - Police have released the description of a second man sought for questioning in connection with the train bomb that killed 15 people near Bologna just before Christmas. He was heavy set, in his mid-forties, wearing a brown overcoat and belt and carrying two leather bags.

Mayor killed

Manila (AP) - Unknown gunmen killed Rogelio Lagmay, the Mayor of Zaragoza in Nueva Ecija province, and three bodyguards on the steps of the town hall. It would have been Lagmay's first day in office since being cleared of corruption charges.

On the map

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Government has changed the name of the central Russian town of Lzhensk to honour the late Defence Minister, Dmitry Ustinov. A naval vessel and streets in Moscow and other cities have also been named Ustinov.

Bihari victims

Delhi (Reuters) - Police have charged 30 Indian villagers in Punjab with murder after six Biharis from Bangladesh, crossing India to reach Pakistan, were beaten to death. It is believed they were mistaken for guerrillas infiltrating from Pakistan.

Soviet test

Stockholm (Reuters) - The Soviet Union exploded a nuclear device at an underground testing site last Friday, the Swedish Hagfors Observatory reported. It measured 7.3 on the Richter scale, equivalent to a strong earthquake.

Buried alive

Nairobi (AP) - A five-year-old girl, buried alive in an anteaer burrow by her adoptive father, survived for four days before being rescued, the Kenya Times reported. She was being punished for allowing a goat to stray into the garden.

Raison tour

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, arrived here for a week-long visit to Tanzania, during which he will meet President Nyerere and tour British-funded projects.

An honest deed puts Gandhi on the spot

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

India's newly-installed Government yesterday faced its first political test, as party strategists pondered which one of the several challenges in front of it was poisoned.

The challenges were placed before it by Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Mr Hegde leads a coalition government in the state, his party Janata having won a surprising victory in the assembly elections two years ago, losing out to a notably corrupt and inefficient Congress (I) government.

Janata, however, suffered a major defeat throughout the country in last month's general election, even in Karnataka where the coalition lost ground to Congress. Mr Hegde, one of the most notably honest and

Congress tally rises to 401

Delhi (Reuters) - Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party won the last result to be announced in India's general election yesterday. Its tally stands at a record 401 seats in Parliament, against 107 for the Opposition parties and independents.

Mr Chingwang Konyak, took the single seat in Nagaland, on the border with Burma.

convincing of India's politicians, immediately offered the resignation of his government to the state Governor "on moral grounds".

He urged the Governor to dissolve the assembly and hold mid-term elections. The Governor asked him to stay in office

as caretaker while he and his chiefs in Delhi thought what to do next.

The choices before them were:

- 1 Not to call elections, but to install a Congress government in Mr Hegde's place, relying on defections by Hegde supporters to provide an assembly majority.
- 2 To call elections and impose President's Rule until they could be held.
- 3 To call elections and have Mr Hegde remain in office as caretaker until then.

The first choice has been ruled out. Mr Veeappa Moily, the leader of Congress in the Legislature, yesterday said this was because of Congress's moral distaste for engineering defections.

The second choice is probably the chalice that is poisoned, but like many such, it

looks attractive. If President's Rule were imposed, the party (through the centrally appointed governor) would have direct control of all the state machinery.

But, come the election, there will be no one in power to blame for the mistakes of the administration.

So the men in Delhi are turning to option three: Keep Mr Hegde in power, blame him for the failures of the administration, cash in on the untied charms of the new Prime Minister, and romp home in the election.

In the list of ministers of state in Mr Gandhi's Council of Ministers published yesterday the name of Mr Janardhan Poojary, Minister of State for Finance, was inadvertently omitted.

India spurns 'exploiting' US lawyers

Delhi (Reuters) - India said yesterday it would use all means available to secure compensation for the victims of the Bhopal gas disaster and that it did not want the tragedy exploited by foreign lawyers.

The Press Trust of India reported that the new Minister of State for Law, Mr H R Bhargava, told a meeting of lawyers here that the government would also provide free legal aid to those seeking recompense after the accident.

More than 2,500 people were killed and some 25,000 injured after gas leaked from a pesticides factory in Bhopal owned by the Union Carbide company last month.

"We will use all channels: even if necessary, to ensure that the sufferers are suitably compensated," Mr Bhargava said. Indian newspapers have sharply criticised teams of US lawyers who flew to India hoping to represent survivors of the disaster.

More E Germans come out of Prague embassy

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A further 17 East Germans yesterday left the West German Embassy in Prague, reducing to about 40 the number camped there still attempting to force a passage to the West.

They left after Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer who has been negotiating on behalf of the East Berlin authorities, assured them that they would not be punished and that applications to emigrate would be considered once they returned home.

The refugees left in a minibus for Prague railway station.

A Bonn spokesman said West Germany had not tried to

influence them. But he gave a warning against any further attempts to force visas from East Germany by fleeing into Western embassies.

Meanwhile figures published in Bonn show that last year 190 East Germans escaped across the heavily-fortified border into West Germany, the lowest number for many years. In 1970 some 1,000 people got across. The number who emigrated legally last year was higher than ever before, however, at 32,603.

West Germany also bought the freedom of 2,247 people from East German prisons,

Reagan's holiday tremor

Palm Springs (AP) - A moderate earthquake rumbled through the Palm Springs area where President Reagan was on a visit on Tuesday night, doing little damage. Officials at the California Institute of Technology said it measured 4.1 on the Richter Scale.

The President spent the new year at the Rancho Mirage estate of the millionaire publisher, Mr Walter Annenberg, about 10 miles south-east of Palm Springs.



Crossing women: Relatives of kidnap victims continue to blockade key Beirut road junctions although there is little hope of finding their loved ones alive.

Softly, softly comes Lebanese security

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Twelve Lebanese policemen yesterday tentatively set in motion the security plan which is supposed to end the partition of Lebanon by taking a gingerly drive down the coast road south of Beirut.

They made a friendly tour of the Druze and Sunni Muslim militia artillery positions above the sea and promised the Christians further south that they would be along today for an inspection of the Phalangist lines.

As usual in Lebanon, things

moved wondrously slow. Two hundred Internal Security Force men were scheduled to turn up in the ruined town of Damour south of the capital yesterday, but as rainstorms curtailed Beirut they sat in their barracks around the city. The 12 luckless constables who did travel south appeared to have been given the job of asking the gunmen not to shoot when the Army turned up at the weekend.

Mr Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, insisted yesterday that the security plan had

now begun, adding that the Government also intended to discover the whereabouts of the hundreds of kidnap victims abducted in recent months.

Very few of these men and women are thought to be still alive, and Mr Karami's words were probably directed towards those Muslims women - supported by armed militiamen - who have been blocking the crossing points between East and West Beirut for the past six days in protest at the disappearance of their relatives.

Chess fight may move to a hotel

Moscow (AFP, Reuters) - Anatoly Karpov, the world chess titleholder, and his challenger, Gary Kasparov, drew yesterday for the 31st time in their championship series here.

The draw, in the 37th game, came on the proposal of Kasparov, playing black. Karpov leads 5-1 and needs one more win to retain his title. The next game is scheduled for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, sources close to the organisers said the championship may move from the Hall of Columns in central Moscow to the Hotel Sport on the city's outskirts, for reasons of economy and convenience.

Thirty-seventh game (Karpov - white; Kasparov, black)

Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4	P-QB4	2 P-K2	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	P-P3	4 K-R2	K-R3
5 P-Q3	P-Q3	6 P-Q2	P-Q2
7 P-Q2	P-Q2	8 P-Q4	P-Q4
9 P-Q4	P-Q4	10 P-Q4	P-Q4
11 P-P3	P-P3	12 P-Q4	P-Q4
13 P-Q4	P-Q4	14 P-Q4	P-Q4

Draw agreed

Quads well

Budapest (AP) - A 24-year-old Hungarian woman has given birth to quadruplets, three girls and a boy, weighing from 4.29 lb to 4.95 lb. All were doing well.

Lake tragedy

Johannesburg (AP) - Five black children, aged 12 to 15, drowned on a lake at a city park when their two rowing boats capsized after colliding.

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PLIGHT OF SIKHS IN INDIA

OFFICIAL COMPLICITY IN MASS KILLINGS?

- More than 1,000 people, mostly Sikhs, have been murdered in the bloody aftermath of Mrs Gandhi's assassination. Now there are sinister signs that the flames of violence have not been entirely spontaneous, but fuelled by ruthless politicians. (Sunday Telegraph 11th November 1984)
- A fact finding team jointly organised by the People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) and the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC) in the course of investigations from November 1 to November 10, has come to the conclusion that the attacks on members of the Sikh community in Delhi and its suburbs... were the outcome of a well organised plan involving both important politicians of Congress (I) and authorities in the Delhi administration. (From a joint report by PUDR and PUC - two of India's most respected Hindu-led civil rights organisations. The report names more than 200 people, including 4 Congress (I) MPs actively involved in the killings.)
- Victims speak of mobs led by the notoriously unruly Youth Congress activists armed with voters lists from which Sikh homes and businesses could be identified. How did kerosene materialise so efficiently? Why did the police declare open season on Sikh shops...? (Sunday Telegraph 11th November 1984)
- Congress Party activists, including some Indian MPs were seen to be actively inciting the mob to kill Sikhs. (BBC 'File on Four' November 21 1984)
- 'Hardly any soldiers or police were to be seen in the streets of the capital.' (Guardian 3rd November 1984)
- Many people complained that, in some cases, the police were not merely hanging back, but giving active support. (Times 5 November 1984)

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Jewish twins to expose evil experiments of Nazi doctor

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

One of the most macabre gatherings ever held to stir the world's conscience about unresolved aspects of the Nazi Holocaust takes place here next month when more than 100 of the Jewish twins subjected to genetic experiments by Dr Joseph Mengele gather to give public testimony about their horrifying experiences.

Working from an office in Jerusalem, an organization of volunteers has managed to bring together 106 of the 180 known survivors from the 750 original pairs of twins subjected to grotesque medical experiments as part of the fanatical doctor's efforts to engineer a master race.

"Much of the evidence will be made public for the first time and will cover a range of the most dreadful acts," explained Mr Aime Dahhan, one of the organizers. "In some cases the twins have only agreed to speak if they are hidden from view behind a curtain."

The organizers say 29 surviving pairs are among those who have agreed to take part.

For three days beginning on February 4 — the day after the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps by Allied forces — the surviving twins, along with midwives, Jewish women and other human guinea pigs used by Dr Mengele will give their evidence

before a special panel chaired by Dr Gideon Hausner, formerly chief prosecutor at the Jerusalem trial of Adolf Eichmann.

The panel, which will publish its conclusions on the evidence, will also include Professor Telford Taylor, formerly chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg war trials, and Mr Simon Wiesenthal, the Vienna-based Nazi hunter who has played a key role in the continuing campaign to track down Dr Mengele and bring him to justice.

Israeli sources believe the Nazi doctor, now in his mid-70s, is living in Paraguay, although there is no certain proof. It is hoped the Jerusalem convention of his victims will spur new efforts in South America to locate him because of the worldwide publicity that will accompany the event.

"The twins have decided that this may be their last chance to try and goad the international community to take action to find Mengele before he dies," Mr Dahhan said yesterday.

Just before the convention opens, a small number of the twins will travel to Poland to take part in an emotional three kilometre march from the former death camp at Birkenau to Auschwitz to commemorate the original "death march" over the route in January 1945.

Vatican mission: The American civil rights leader, the Rev Jesse Jackson, sightseeing in St Peter's Square, Rome, yesterday. He is to meet the Pope to discuss South Africa's apartheid system and international disarmament.

The new European Commission: 2 Britons able to confound critics

In the second article on the new European Commission which takes over on Monday Ian Murray looks at the work and personalities of the two British Commissioners and three of their colleagues.

Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis arrive in Brussels with the distinct advantage that they may prove better than their many critics — in and out of Britain — have said they are.

The two British Commissioners have widely been seen as a second-class commitment to Europe. They have been given portfolios, however, of the deepest Community involvement, which can enable them to prove their critics were fools.

Lord Cockfield has the job of opening up the internal frontiers of Europe. He is said to have wanted to be in charge of industry, when he was nominated, but the British government believes that the main job — now that the EEC budget is sorted out — is to turn the Community into a real Common Market. It was therefore particularly anxious to see its nominee get the job of masterminding that.

He brings to the job a reputation as a man with a considerable intellect, who likes nothing better than to solve insoluble problems. He is said to be one of the world's leading experts on the British taxation system — a fact recognized in that he is also to be in charge of EEC taxation and financial institutions. He does not suffer fools gladly and expects the highest standards from those working with him.

But Lord Cockfield is also



Joining the new team (from left): Lord Cockfield (internal market, taxes), Mr Davis (transport, environment), Signor Ripa di Meana (institutions), Herr Pfeiffer (economic affairs) and Mr Varfis (regions).

marked down as "Thatcher's Man", so close to the Prime Minister in his views that he does not need to ask her, before knowing exactly what she thinks. This may help him in dealing with the British Government, but may not immediately endear him to his new colleagues.

A barrister, with a long career in the Inland Revenue behind him, Lord Cockfield was chairman of Boots the chemists and Chairman of the Price Commission before becoming a Treasury minister. He was in the Cabinet as Secretary of State for Trade when nominated.

As a member of the House of Lords, he has had to give an undertaking not to have anything to do with Parliament for as long as he is a member of the International Commission.

He is aged 68 and is married. Mr Davis was proudly introduced by the British Labour group in the European Parliament as a man who had voted against Britain's membership of the Community. But he is a pragmatist and freely admits

that Britain now seems so linked to the EEC that it is more important to make membership work than to make futile efforts to get out.

He has been given what has so far proved the most thankless of tasks in the Commission — that of running a transport policy. The trouble is that the Community still does not have one, although it was supposed to set one up right from the beginning. The Council of ministers has been taken to the European Court for incompetence over this by the European Parliament and the judgement is expected by Easter. A strong judgement could give the new Commissioner something to work on.

He has also been given the allied subjects of the environment, forests, consumer protection and nuclear safety. It could be that part of this portfolio will be hived off once Spain and Portugal join the EEC in order to provide work for their commissioners, but in the meantime this will be one of the most intensely political areas of Community life.

This is because, under West German pressure, environment is to be a leading topic at the European summit in Brussels in March. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is pressing hard for action to stop the Black Forest from dying and to subside the ever-growing Green movement in his country.

So Mr Davis will be pitched into this hot seat at a time when the spotlight will inevitably fall on him and when there is real criticism at what is seen as Britain's negative attitude to controlling water and air pollution.

He could well run straight into trouble with the British Government, which he has already accused of being selfish and unthinking in its environmental policy. Certainly he will have his work cut out to implement any decisions from the European summit on the subject.

Mr Davis is a solicitor by training and a socialist politician by profession. He has specialized in foreign affairs during the 13 years he spent in Parliament as member for Hackney Central, and although disappointed at failing to obtain an overseas portfolio in the Commission, he declares himself satisfied enough with his new job.

He lost his seat as a result of boundary changes, which let in a more left-wing candidate. He was nominated to Brussels only because Mrs Thatcher refused to give the present Labour Party nominee, Mr Ivor Richard, a second term.

He is aged 56, married, with four children. Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana is a jet-setting journalist turned socialist politician who has been given the job of improving the Community's public image. This means that he will have to co-ordinate all the work being done on institutional reform and on creating the so-called "citizens' Europe" which covers everything from border checks to a European flag.

He is also to be in charge of cultural and tourist matters, both areas in which an Italian can be expected to have strong views and ideas.

When Greece took over the presidency, he was put in charge of the special jumbo councils which tried, and failed, to solve the British budget problem. In his new job as regional Commissioner he will have a very special interest as far as his own country is concerned, since Greece wants proportionately more regional aid than any other country. The fact that nearly led to a breakdown at the end of the Dublin European summit last month.

He will thus have a key role in sorting out the remaining problems which stand in the way of enlargement. Not least by the way he controls the pressures from the Greek Government, he will be one of the more important members of the Commission. He is aged 57. Tomorrow: The toughest post

Within the Commission the portfolio is not seen as particularly important alongside the traditional weighty subjects like agriculture and industry. Nevertheless the new Commission is obliged to work hard in this area, which is to be a leading subject for discussion at the June summit in Milan.

Signor Ripa di Meana won some renown for his reports made for the European Parliament on Afghanistan and the Pacific, but he lost his Strasbourg seat after a reshuffle of his party list before the last election.

His fashion-designer wife has won notoriety for him through her best-selling book called *My First Forty Years* in which she praised his sexual prowess.

He is aged 54. Herr Alois Pfeiffer is a professional West German trade unionist, who has been doing exactly the same job in the labour movement previously held by Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp — the man he replaces on the European Commission.

In his new job he will continue to look after economic affairs, just as he did for the trade union movement. But he will also be in charge of employment policy — an interesting marriage of two portfolios which are obviously closely interrelated.

Herr Pfeiffer is little known outside his country and his appointment has been seen as proof that senior West German politicians are loath to take a job in Brussels for fear of being left out of national politics when they return home. He is aged 60.

Mr Grigoris Varfis is said to be better informed than anyone else in Greece about how the EEC works, having been appointed to the permanent representation in 1963, when his country signed a treaty of association with the Community.

Essentially a backroom tactician, he was called in to do the groundwork for the negotiations on Greek accession to the Community in 1975, but resigned two years later because he did not think that his Government was prepared to fight for the right terms.

Meanwhile, as a member of the Pasko think-tank, he was closely involved in drawing up the party's election programme before it swept to power in 1981. He was then immediately appointed to look after Community affairs.

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Rebels blamed as blast severs Jaffna rail link

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Tamil rebels were accused yesterday of cutting rail services between Colombo and Jaffna, the Tamil capital in the north of Sri Lanka.

An explosion on Tuesday damaged the track at Kodimamam, 15 miles south of Jaffna. Yesterday rail services had to be terminated at Kilinochchi, a further 29 miles south.

After a Cabinet review of the security situation yesterday Mr Anandadasa de Alwis, a Cabinet spokesman, said the rebels were only hurting their own people.

Any armed forces needed in the north would be sent by air, sea or road, he said. But disruption of the rail service would make it difficult for the Government to send food and fuel to the area.

A spokesman of the judicial services commission yesterday said work in northern courts would come to a standstill if the rebels persisted in attacks on courthouses. On Tuesday court-

houses at Chavakachcheri and Makkalam near Jaffna were burgled and damaged.

Meanwhile, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former Prime Minister, has asked the Government to resign and hold elections, saying it had lost effective control of the northern province except for "isolated pockets of soldiers and policemen in camps who can do little more than show the flag."

But the Cabinet spokesman dismissed Mrs Bandaranaike's statement as nothing more than a "political ploy".

DELHI TALKS: The Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka was flying to Delhi yesterday for urgent talks on the crisis, after a summons from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, diplomatic sources in Colombo said (AFP report).

Indian High Commissioner sources said Mr S. J. Chatterjee, the Commissioner, would be away for at least a week.

Letter from Jaffna, back page

Kashmir rebel detained

Islamabad — Dr Farooq Haider, a leader of the Kashmir National Liberation Front in Pakistan, has been arrested in Rawalpindi and is being detained for 90 days in the high security interrogation and detention centre of the Moghul Fort at Lahore (Hassan Akhtar writes).

The liberation front issued a statement here yesterday saying that Dr Haider, who was

arrested and kept in custody for about a year in 1971 when the Indian airliner Ganga was hijacked by young Kashmiris and brought to Lahore, was arrested at midnight on January 1.

The statement added that Dr Haider was taken away by police who later served an order accusing the doctor of acting in a manner prejudicial to public order and martial law.

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THE ARTS

Karlheinz Stockhausen comes to London next week for a major retrospective of the works that made him a world figure: interview by Paul Griffiths

Musical images conceived out of dreams

Next Tuesday the BBC sets out on what must be the biggest retrospective ever mounted of Stockhausen's work "Music and Machines", a packed few days of concerts that will include a fair proportion of his compositions from the 1960s. As the festival's title suggests, it was a time when his music grew ever more closely attuned to electronic ways of making sound - a time too when he became a world figure, in terms of public celebrity and in terms of his music, which increasingly gained nourishment from Japanese, Indian and South American as much as European traditions. Everything he has done since has its roots in that decade, but I wondered how the idea for the festival had come about.

"It was Anthony Sargent's idea at the BBC. The original plan was to perform *Momente*, but that alone would have needed six weeks of rehearsal, and neither I nor Peter Eötvös, who conducts the two orchestral concerts, had the time. So we will be doing other works of that time: unfortunately not *Mikrophonie I*, because we don't have a group who have learnt it. *Mikrophonie I* was the first of many works Stockhausen wrote in the 1960s for his touring ensemble - pieces which, I ventured, had now become impossible to perform since that ensemble no longer exists.

"No, no, no, no. By no means. I now have a group of very young people, between 16 and 26, including my two sons Markus and Simon, and they are excellent musicians. They have an entirely new approach to electronic instruments: they can each play several instruments and they get interesting results much more quickly, much more elegantly, than musicians of my generation. I think there is a real mutation going on." With these

mutants he has been working on *Hymnen*, which they will play at the Barbican on January 16, but he has further plans for them.

"When Simon is out of high school, this group should learn *Mikrophonie I*, which will take two months. Then they must learn *Prozession* and *Kurzwellen*, then *Pole* and *Expo* - works that nobody touches, because they are so demanding, they need so much consciousness of what you are doing. Most musicians get stuck because of the intellectual work you have to do, listening to unforeseen sound material and shaping it according to very abstract rules."

I suggest that there is a further problem, in that his presence is needed for these pieces to be played. He vigorously denies this, saying that he has sometimes been pleased and surprised by performances made independently (though "the level is very uneven"). Yet in the next breath he says "I would love to train a young group who could then train their own pupils to continue the tradition."

We get further when I remark that there is one big difference between his works of the 1960s and his present projects: then he wrote nothing for the theatre, whereas now he is in the middle of the seven-opera cycle *Licht*. No, he insists, his music was always dramatic. Ah yes, I say, but nowadays he is working with narratives of a sort, whereas in a work like *Momente* there is no dramatic idea other than arises directly out of the music.

"Certainly there is. The soprano soloist is there in the middle of all her kids: the choir, applauding her, clapping her, snapping their fingers. It was a real opera. And to me *Hymnen* - with all the lighting, the way they sit on the stage listening to their shortwave

receivers - is a different kind of slow-motion opera. And if you would have seen Heinz Holliger playing *Spiral*, when he was hoisted up on a rope and went flying around playing his oboe.

"These things have always happened in my works. *Komische* too, very surrealistic aspects: how it starts with the pianist taking a metal needle out of his suit pocket and scratching it around the tam-tam, starting the wheel of the world. It's a different sort of opera from nowadays: it's very abstract. But the musical action has always been conceived as action."

The opera to which he is now looking forward is *Montag*, the third of the days of *Licht*. "I started as usual by organizing first the overall construction of the whole evening, determining the order of scenes and the type of scenes, and the relationship of all the layers. I know now exactly what performers and what means I am going to use, the approximate duration of every scene, etc. This is all clear: all I have to do is work."

As with the previous days, *Donnerstag* and *Samstag*, the work is going to proceed piecemeal, with each scene presented in concert performance before the opera is assembled. "I always arrange it in a way that I can make the necessary experience with each large scene separately, as these sections are fairly complex: each needs one or two years of work, and then a lot of rehearsal." Characteristic too is his command of his creative timetable.

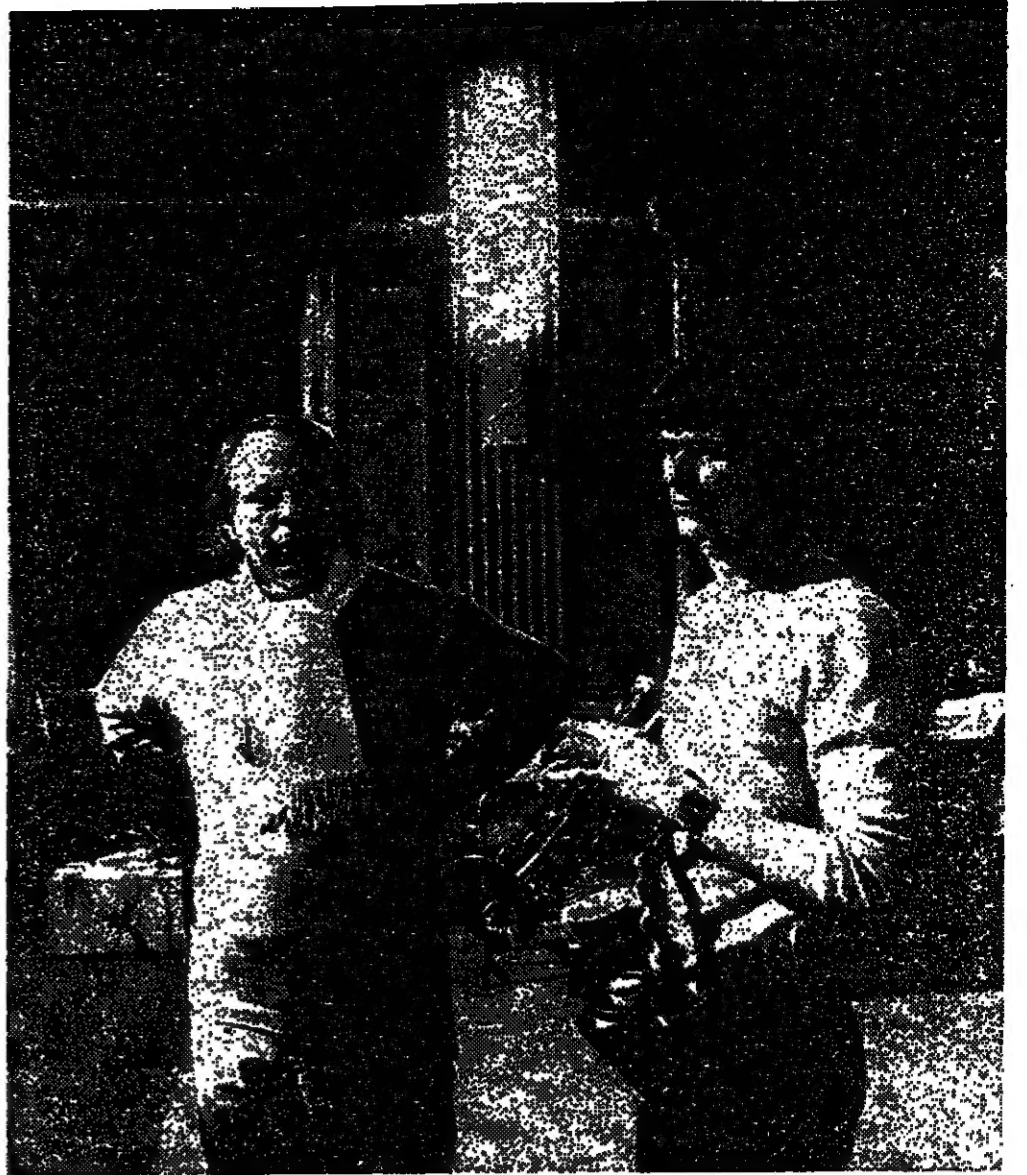
"I will perform the first part of *Montag* on September 2, 1986, in Berlin, which will be a composition for solo bassist, horn and four other musicians, the four I trained for *Hymnen*. At first I thought I would compose the score, which is called 'Eve's Song' ('Evas Lied' in German),

for bass horn and two synthesizer players, but I was very pleased with the spirit of the group, and so I want to include them all.

"Then, two months later, another scene will be performed at Metz: that will be 'The Children-Catcher', for children's choir, solo bass horn, solo flute, synthesizers and mixed choir. And the final scene will be performed on June 2, 1987, in Cologne. It will be for high soprano, soprano, mezzo-soprano, female choir, boys' choir, girls' choir, traditional orchestra and modern orchestra, which means again the synthesizers, piano and percussion. And then I will be ready. I will only have to compose the 'Monday Greeting', and again I know what I want: a superimposition of 40 bass horn' - I blink - 'on tape. For the 'Farewell' I imagine the same for flutes and children's voices, also recorded."

With all these choirs and solo instruments it does not, I suggest, sound like a work for a proscenium theatre. "On the contrary. You may be surprised by how much action there is in *Montag*. They will be terribly busy on the stage. It is the day of the birth, the rebirth of man, and so the opera has a whole composed curve of action, which goes up to now the action has been the result of inner vision, imagination of entire situations. Now I am very carefully composing the line of action of events, like a melody."

The source of those events may be, as it has been in the past, in dreams, but the detail has to come from elsewhere. The dream is an overall image, but you don't know if they're F sharp or G flats. And you don't care. It's like when I heard gagaku music for the first time in a hotel room in Tokyo: I couldn't tell exactly what they played, but you get that feeling of a special sort of music."



Stockhausen with his trumpeter son Markus, who nowadays plays a growingly important part in the composer's performances

Concert

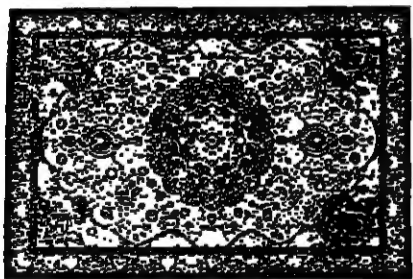
LSO/Georgiadis
Barbican

A critic's lot is, indeed, a most unhappy one. To find oneself having to watch the London Symphony Orchestra raspberry-blowing its way into the new year is one thing. But to discover when it comes to Carl Michael Ziehrer's "Kiss-Polka" (with compulsory actions) that on one's left is the aisle and on one's right a spare seat is the very last straw.

John Georgiadis, who at this stage of the evening had yet to change into his purple velvet, introduced Ziehrer's work with its lip-smacking refrains as one of the rarities in the LSO's New Year Viennese Concert. Another of them was father J. Strauss's "Frederica-Polka" and yet another his "Almacks-Quadrille".

There is, of course, usually a good reason why a rarity is rare: in this case the iced miniatures of the quadrille were welcome refreshment after the polka had lurched into reluctant life like a dusty relic from Vienna's clock museum.

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Theatre

Winter
Old Red Lion

In this harrowing play, now ten years old, David Mowat seems almost to have set out to do the impossible: to fix the whole piece in one man's sterility and despair, not in the abstract world of Beckett, but in a winter drawing-room. It is the cells of a biologist's mind and heart that are under the microscope, a handsome father of barely 40 whose professional modes of thinking have brought him to a point where he can neither work nor feel.

The last days of his life take him through the realization that his wife is dying, and the frustration and shame of incest with his teenage daughter, to an atrocious death.

It says much for Eric Standridge's cast, and for the spare elegance of Mr Mowat's writing, that what must inevitably sound like an evening of doom and gloom is full of subtle and disturbing colour. They sustained the tension on a first night troubled with verbal slips - not surprising given the dialogue's pointillist character and elaborate cross-patterning.

Dangerous scenes like the incestuous seduction and the daughter's confession of it, to say nothing of a Grand Guignol final curtain, were played with a conviction and delicacy that still any risk of unwanted

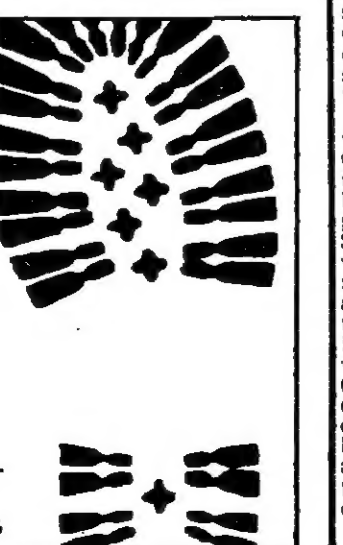
Anthony Masters

Khovanshchina
San Francisco

There can never be a "definitive" performance of Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, since the score the composer left at his death in 1881 was unfinished in so many ways; many legitimate options remain open to the producer. But in mounting its first performance of this national epic, the San Francisco Opera seems to have made almost all the right decisions. The result is a production that is probably as coherent, as meaning-laden, as brilliant and as respectful of the composer's own confused and passionate ideals as one is ever likely to see.

The score used was the Lamm/Shostakovich version, orchestrated and completed for a 1959 Soviet film, minus three short episodes heard at Covent Garden in 1972. "Supertitles" a running English condensation of the libretto projected on a screen high over the stage, helped the audience through all the Russian intrigue.

Gerd Albrecht conducted the irregular, idiosyncratic score with conviction and devotion.



Opera

making the most of the abrupt changes of key and time, the wildly expressive use of brass and percussion, the haunting mix of "Eastern" folk or Old Church modal harmonies with the greatest of Western lyric lines.

Another correct instinct led to the company's decision to go with Nicola Benois's old set and costume designs, first conceived for La Scala in 1926. They have been revised and adapted many times since (for Rome, Palermo, Buenos Aires, Chicago). But in their weighty, high-coloured more-than-realism (especially the huge timbers of the Streltsy Quarter and of Khovansky's palace hall), their constant views of the towers and domes of Moscow, they remain powerfully expressive of the dreadful old civilization whose death this opera so unsentimentally chronicles.

Costuming was credible, crowd movements made sense. The interpretation of Maria, the lover-priestess-witch who serves as a sort of mystical hinge for all the passionate intrigues, was successfully stylized enough to make one imagine the possibilities of another, less realistic approach. But, on balance, text, score and composer's purpose demand as authentic feeling as one can contrive. Benois's set designs, and Sonja Frisell's stage direction, were a long way towards achieving this illusion.

London operators know the wise and stalwart presence of Gwynne Howell, his resonant near-chanting of the old priest's lines of warning, comfort and prayer. The Finnish bass Matti Salminen, a giant of a man, sang with unfailing power and ringing clarity in all registers, and created a terrifyingly born-to-lead barbarian leader. Helga Demesch's spellbinding Maria was primarily responsible (along with a superbly rehearsed chorus) for holding together this disjointed and multi-voiced historical pageant. She wanders as if in a supernatural daze throughout all the plots and counterplots.

David Littlejohn

Television

The Galactic Garden (BBC 1) was a chance to see familiar things made new - which is one definition of science fiction, if not, perhaps, of television. The familiar object on this occasion was a suburban garden, and the novelty was its dimension. Two galactic beings, played by Andrew Sachs and Sarah Neville, had been shrunk to the size of apple-seeds and then exposed to the dangers of natural life: to paraphrase Andrew Marvell they were ensnared with flowers and, if they were, very lucky, fell on grass.

It was perhaps more interesting as an educational exercise than as a dramatic entertainment, and was in any case most suitable for those who are

Television

Monstrous moral

anxious to know exactly what lies at the bottom of the garden. Nevertheless, the sight of centipedes or ants magnified to a very large degree was enough to provoke genuine if alarmed interest: here were monsters indeed, and never has a spot seemed less suburban.

The moral seemed to be that earth (or the Earth) is a very dangerous place to be: "It's a death-trap up here," one of the little space creatures observed, as he was impaled upon a plant the size of Westminster Abbey. Certainly it did not look very

healthy from any angle - although, in the process of being either terrified or appalled at the secrets of the garden, it was impossible not to be impressed by the editing and camera-work involved.

The Greatest Paper in the World (Thames) marked the Bicentenary of *The Times*. It was not an entirely celebratory account, however, since various members of the Great and the Good brigade were seen to complain about this newspaper's content and presen-

tion. And yet such complaints are hardly new: the point about an institution, as the programme made clear, is that there are always attempts to pull it down. That it is an institution is not in doubt, if only in the sense that it reflects (albeit sometimes unwittingly and even unwillingly) larger changes in the nation itself.

Of course there are always those who look back with purblind nostalgia to some age of silver, if not of gold, against which the contemporary product is supposed to look distinctly brassy; but, as last night's documentary demonstrated, the same virtues and vices seem always to have flourished at *The Times*.

Peter Ackroyd

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The professional among volunteers

One of the young Nicholas Hinton's responsibilities at Salisbury, where he was head chorister, was to convey his flock of chorists between the organist's house, where they practised, and the main school building. On Saturdays, with tuck waiting at the school end, the journey was meant to be made in silence.

One Saturday, the chorists chattered. Nearing the school, Hinton, small, blond, angelic-looking, halted the party, formed them smartly up into a fresh and silent crocodile and led them back to begin again. The chorists obeyed. What was more, since Hinton was joking and popular they hardly balked.

Qualities like these made the then Bishop of Salisbury remark that he hoped he would still be alive when Hinton reached his full potential.

On 14 January Nicholas Hinton becomes Director-General of the Save the Children Fund. His appointment comes at one of those sudden moments of total change in the world of voluntary organizations when a whole collection of directors appear to be playing a large game of musical chairs. David Simpson is moving from ASH, the anti-smoking body, to Voluntary Service Overseas, which has just lost Frank Judd to Oxfam. Hinton comes to Save the Children from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, umbrella of all the voluntary sector.

With Third World development problems and disasters, these new appointments may be particularly crucial.

The new head of Save the Children, still not very tall, is a fair, compact, unflappable man who cycles to work. Staff may be somewhat troubled at first by his apparent coolness of manner, a sense of remoteness and detachment. "Until you know him, he can stand accused of rigidity and ideas fixes," observed a former colleague. "He doesn't give an impact. He does learn from his mistakes, but he conceals that learning curve almost to a fault. It can be unnerving."

They should not be disheartened. For here is a man who has winked his way almost unscathed among the minefields of 15 years in the voluntary sector world, along the edges of politics and on numerous committees renowned for their prickliness and backbiting. Nicholas Hinton has a formidable following. "I have never found anyone since as good as he is," said someone who

The Times Profile: Nicholas Hinton

worked under him for four years. "He is absolutely approachable, always to the point, and always ready to back you up."

Lord Donaldson, chairman of the committee which gave Hinton his first directorship, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO), says: "He is an original thinker. He won't accept the status quo as necessarily right and he's always prepared to have a go."

Those signs of leadership apparent 30 years ago between the organist's house and the tuck shop were put to their first serious test at the Edington Music Festival in the

kept constant open house, he has total moral probity and a social conscience allied to militancy. "He always thinks strategically," said one. "But everything he does is imbued with Christian values. He looks for people to live lives of rectitude."

The late Sixties were interesting years in the voluntary sector. The vision of an all-succouring welfare state, born out of immediate post-war idealism, was growing a bit faint. The government seemed to be pulling back while the pioneers of the traditional voluntary services obviously pined for greater responsibility. The talk was all of new partnerships. Of the newer organizations, NACRO was one of the most exciting, even if barely two and a half years old and still more concerned with service than strategy. Nicholas Hinton became its training organizer.

Within very little time, NACRO's director unexpectedly died. Hinton was, says Lord Donaldson, "a unanimous choice".

From the sidelines, observing the newcomer with an eye to future appointments, Sara Morrison, a former chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and today director of GEC, remembers: "I perceived a clever, thoughtful figure, someone who was pragmatic and steady and didn't blow his top and make statements as a substitute for action."

"He was operating as a really good pro should - rejecting the fashionable shibboleths of the day even though they might have brought political advantage."

A colleague from those days said Hinton's strength seemed to be that he gave NACRO a hard-cutting political edge without being too offensive. "He had the capacity of being able to bite politely the hand that fed him. Even the most truculent of Home Office people admitted that, though he was tough and tough-minded, and drove others hard, he was good." By the time he was ready to move on, NACRO was, says another colleague, "operating 100 per cent above par."

'He has a way of being extremely efficient without being officious'

early Sixties. A dedicated musical future had been abandoned after his voice broke, and although he had continued to conduct and sing throughout his school and university days, he was increasingly drawn to music administration. (Today he calls himself a "lapsed flautist").

Like all his appointments, Hinton got the job of Edington's director very young. "He had a way of being extremely efficient without ever being officious," recalls a musician. The festival flourished.

It was not pure administration that was to attract him, however. All through Marlborough, Hinton spent his long vacations working at an approved school, and after a law degree from Cambridge he discarded the idea of becoming a barrister and went instead to help at an intermediate treatment scheme for young offenders at Northorpe Hall, near Leeds. That was to have lasted a year, while he decided what to do next, but it went on for four, while he took a postgraduate degree in social work.

This side of him, say friends, explains almost everything he now does: the son of a country vicar who



Nicholas Hinton: Unscathed after 15 years among the minefields of voluntary work and politics

Hinton's next job was daunting by definition. Founded in 1919 as a "neutral country" somewhere between Whitehall and the real world, the NCVO was intended to act as shelter to Britain's hundreds of voluntary organizations, to coordinate them, rationalize them, and to give a powerful definition to their relationship with the Welfare State. In its time, the NCVO had done brilliant things. By the mid Seventies, it had become disheartened, moribund. It was here that Hinton, as organization man, really flowered.

He was 35 when he arrived as the NCVO's director. Not only were many of the staff understandably wary, but the field itself was "indiscreetly soggy, a marshland soon hit by Thatcherism and unemployment". Hinton moved surely.

"Nick's great strength is his positiveness," says a colleague. Elsewhere, people noticed the way he attracted other young stars to the NCVO to start a Policy Planning Unit, which excelled at the ideas and complemented his organizational solidity. The NCVO became a good place to be.

In seven years the organisation acquired a very different image. "It was completely transformed," says Francis Gladstone, who joined from the Home Office six months after Hinton's arrival. "It had acquired a strong informational element, it had influenced attitudes. It had reshaped

'He likes pubs and the country, but what he really likes best is work'

and reorganized entire programmes."

Much of this was clearly due to Hinton's finely tuned sense of the politically possible. In the process, however, he had also shown he could take risks. If there were things he felt strongly about he said so very publicly, whomever it might offend. His tough manner made enemies, even if he became widely known as someone who could be all things to all people, who felt at home both with the Tories and the Labour left.

Hinton relies totally, say his friends, on his wife Deborah. They

met during Edington Festival days. She is a former juvenile court magistrate who is gregarious and outgoing. He likes pubs, walking in the country, and perpetually needing to move, enjoys looking at architectural sights and fine country houses. But what he really likes best is work. The fact that he keeps people at a distance, says a friend, is tempered by the way he is "giggly and easy. When he's not exhausted and harassed he can be enormous fun". Hinton's interest is held by unfulfilled potential. He likes the challenge of unscrambling mess and making things work. Then he grows restless. Some time in the last couple of years he began to think once again of a move. Nothing came up. Politics, within the SDP, filled the gap.

He had been a member of the Labour Party until the referendum, then left in disgust. At the last election, he fought Somerset and Frome, in Somerset, coming second with 36 per cent of the vote - a respectable share in Tory country.

But here again, colleagues found him to have a greater taste for administration, working on policy documents and sitting on com-

HIS LIFE AND WORK

Born: 1942, Westbury, Wiltshire
 Educated: Chorister at Salisbury Cathedral; Marlborough College; Selwyn College, Cambridge, to read history then law
 Married: 1971, Deborah Vivian
 1965-68 Assistant Director, Northorpe Hall Trust
 1968-77 National Council for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (director 1973-77)
 1977-1984 Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations
 1985- Director-General of the Save the Children Fund

mitters, than for building alliances and coalitions. "He understands beautifully how the system works," says one political colleague. "He's a principled pragmatist, but he's not interested in people. And he lacks the theatricality needed for true politics."

At Save the Children, Hinton faces a double test. Once again he goes to an organization said to be stuck with the aura of another age, highly successful yet lacking the high-flying administration it needs. More than the difficulties of galvanizing it, however, Hinton has to learn about the developing world, a subject in which he has no expertise. One of the notable things about the current round of appointments is that none of the three directors is an expert in international matters.

"There has been a spectacular growth in the incomes of these organizations in the last five years," said one international aid director. "Administrations set up to handle £5 million a year are now handling £20 million. Hinton will clearly be excellent at sorting that out. But what made these organizations so successful was that they have the flexibility lacking in institutions like the UN. By strengthening the procedures - will something of that flexibility be lost?"

That Nicholas Hinton, still only 42, will stay in the public eye, no one doubts. "It's obvious that within five years the SCF will be the best overseas agency Britain has," said one admirer. "But where will he go then?"

Politicians tend to talk of him as ministerial material; those in the voluntary world speculate that, unlike almost any one else they know, he could drift as easily towards the top of a nationalized industry. A friend bet him that within 10 years he'll be a Tory MP. Another said that his "monkish" side was not likely to take pleasure in international junkets, but that as a basically transatlantic figure he could easily take root in the higher echelons of the World Bank or the United Nations.

About himself, Hinton is characteristically diplomatic: "I have been and am extremely fortunate," he says. "I'm content. I grew up with a strong ethos for work."

Caroline Moorehead

Anniversaries of 1985

JANUARY

- Paul Revere, American patriot, born, Boston, Massachusetts, 1735
The Daily Universal Register was founded, 1785, changing its title to *The Times*, Jan 1 1788
The Dictionary of National Biography began publication with the volume *Abadie - Anne*, 1885
- Baldassare Galuppi, composer, died, Venice, 1785



Little Red Riding Hood, a favourite Grimm heroine

- Jacob Grimm, compiler of fairy tales and lexicographer, born, Hanau, Germany, 1785
- John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, Admiral of the Fleet, born Meaford, Staffordshire, 1735
- John Eccles, composer, died, Hampton Wick, 1735
- Edmond About, writer, died, Paris, 1885
- César Cui, composer, born, Vilna, 1835
- Mary Ward, foundress of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, born, Yorkshire, 1585
- Bomb explosions in the House of Commons and the Tower of London, 1885

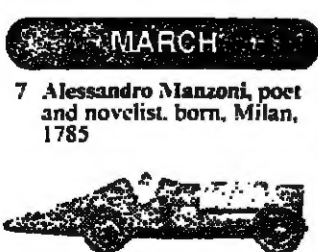


- Charles George Gordon, general, killed at Khartoum, 1885

FEBRUARY



- Charles II, reigned 1660-85, died, London, 1685
- Alban Berg, composer, born, Vienna, 1885
- Académie Française founded, 1635
- Mersey Tunnel was opened, 1885
- Henry Hunt, radical, died, Alresford, Hampshire, 1835
- The Lady was first published, 1885
- George Frideric Handel, born, Halle, Germany, 1685
- John Arbuthnot, physician and wit, died, London, 1735
- Ferdinand Eber, general in Garibaldi's army and a foreign correspondent of *The Times*, died, Budapest, 1885



Campbell in his 140.16 mph record-breaking Sunbeam

- Sir Malcolm Campbell, racing motorist, born, Chislehurst, Kent, 1885
- George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, philosopher, born, Co Kilkenny, 1685



- George Earle Buckle, editor of *The Times*, 1884-1912, died, London, 1935

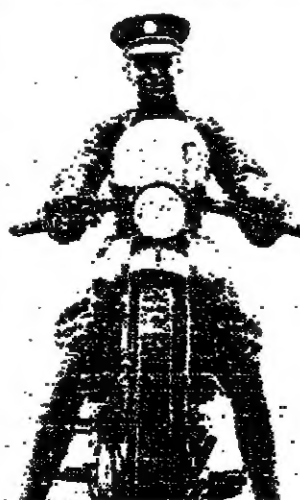
- Johann Sebastian Bach, born, Eisenach, Germany, 1685
- The first cremation in Britain at the Cremation Society's crematorium, Woking, Surrey, 1885

APRIL

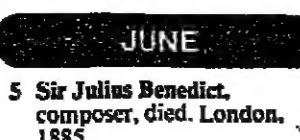
- Thomas Orway, dramatist, died, London, 1685
- Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester, born, Cranborne, Dorset, 1635



- John Nash, architect, died, Cones, 1835
- Felicia Hemans, poet, died, Dublin, 1835
- John Wilson ("Christopher North"), philosopher and writer, born, Paisley, 1785
- The Revised Version of the Bible was published, 1885

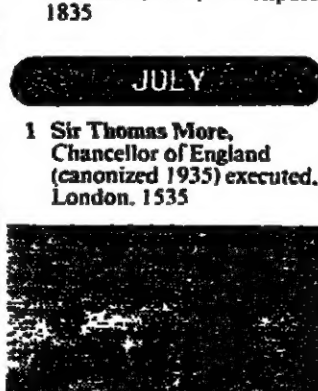


- T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), died, Bovington, Dorset, 1935
- Victor Hugo, novelist and poet, died, Paris, 1885
- Alfred Austin, Poet Laureate 1896-1913, born, Leeds, 1835

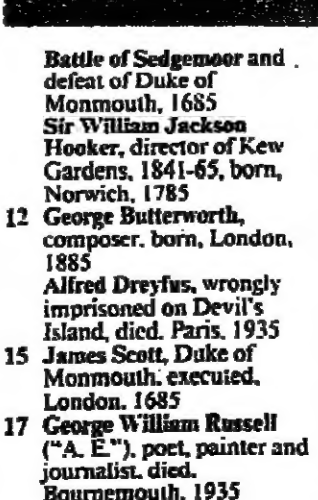


- Sir Julius Benedict, composer, died, London, 1885

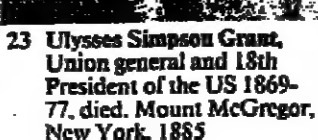
- William Cobbett, essayist, politician and agriculturist, died, Normandy Farm, near Guildford, Surrey, 1835
- An explosion in Clifton Hall colliery, Manchester, killed 186 miners, 1885
- John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester (canonized 1935), executed, London, 1535
- James Maxton, leader of the Independent Labour Party, born, Pollockshaws, near Glasgow, 1885
- Charles Mathews, comedian, died, Devonport, 1835



- Sir Thomas More, Chancellor of England (canonized 1935) executed, London, 1535



- Battle of Sedgemoor and defeat of Duke of Monmouth, 1685
- Sir William Jackson Hooper, director of Kew Gardens, 1841-65, born, Norwich, 1785
- George Butterworth, composer, born, London, 1885
- Alfred Dreyfus, wrongly imprisoned on Devil's Island, died, Paris, 1935
- James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, executed, London, 1685
- George William Russell ("A. E."), poet, painter and journalist, died, Bournemouth, 1935



- Ulysses Simpson Grant, Union general and 18th President of the US 1869-77, died, Mount McGregor, New York, 1885

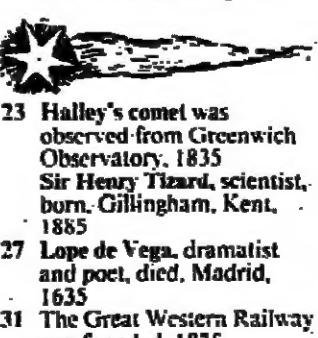
- Sir Moses Montefiore Bt, philanthropist, died, Ramsgate, Kent, 1885
- Paul du Chaila, anthropologist, born, Paris, 1835

AUGUST

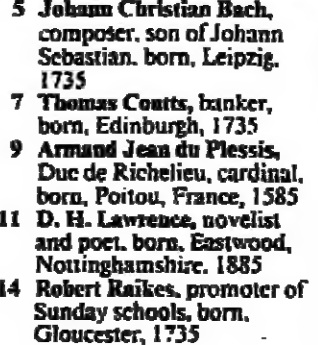
- Richard Monckton Milnes, 1st Baron Houghton, writer, died, Vichy, 1885
- John Fletcher, preacher, died, Madeley, Shropshire, 1785
- Thomas de Quincey, essayist and critic, born, Manchester, 1785
- Sir Montague Burton, tailor, born, Kurk, Lithuania, 1885



- Richard III, reigned 1483-85, killed at the battle of Bosworth Field, 1485; succeeded by Henry VII



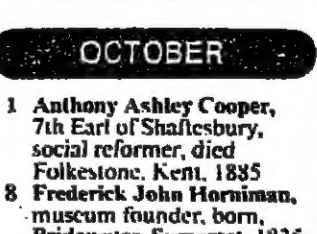
- Halley's comet was observed from Greenwich Observatory, 1835
- Sir Henry Tizard, scientist, born, Gillingham, Kent, 1885
- Lope de Vega, dramatist and poet, died, Madrid, 1635
- The Great Western Railway was founded, 1835



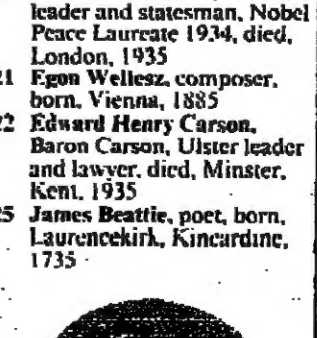
- Johann Christian Bach, composer, son of Johann Sebastian, born, Leipzig, 1735
- Thomas Coutts, banker, born, Edinburgh, 1735
- Armand Jean du Plessis, Duc de Richelieu, cardinal, born, Paris, France, 1585
- D. H. Lawrence, novelist and poet, born, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, 1885
- Robert Raikes, promoter of Sunday schools, born, Gloucester, 1735



- John Gay, poet and dramatist, baptized, Barnstaple, Devon, 1685
- Yeomen of the Guard founded, 1485
- John Spedan Lewis, retailer, born, London, 1885
- Vincenzo Bellini, composer, died, Puteaux, France, 1835



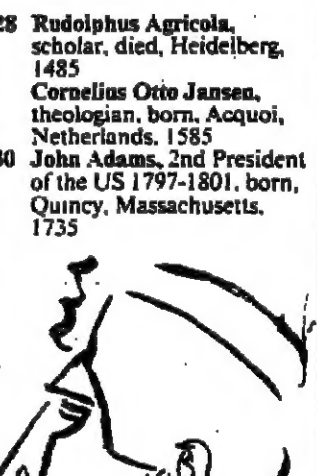
- Ezra Pound, poet and critic, born, Hailey, Idaho, 1885



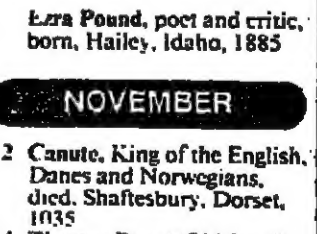
- Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, social reformer, died, Folkestone, Kent, 1835
- Frederick John Horniman, museum founder, born, Bridgewater, Somerset, 1835
- Camille Saint-Saëns, composer, born, Paris, 1835
- Thomas Love Peacock, novelist and poet, born, Weymouth, Dorset, 1785
- Arthur Henderson, Labour leader and statesman, Nobel Peace Laureate 1934, died, London, 1935
- Egon Wellesz, composer, born, Vienna, 1885
- Edward Henry Carson, Baron Carson, Ulster leader and lawyer, died, Minister, Kent, 1935
- James Beattie, poet, born, Laurencekirk, Kincardine, 1735



- Sir Frederick Handley Page, aviation pioneer, born, Cheltenham, 1885
- Sir David Wilkie, painter, born, Cults, Fife, 1785
- John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Earl Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, died, London, 1935
- Walter William Skeat, philologist, born, London, 1835
- James Hogg, (the "Ettrick Shepherd"), poet, died, Yarrow, Scotland, 1835
- Thomas Tallis, composer, died, Greenwich, 1585
- Andrew Carnegie, ironmaster and philanthropist, born, Dunfermline, 1835



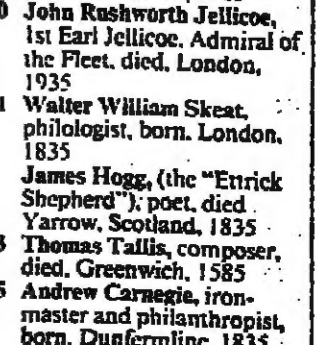
- Rudolphus Agricola, scholar, died, Heideberg, 1485
- Cornelius Otto Jansen, theologian, born, Acquoi, Netherlands, 1585
- John Adams, 2nd President of the US 1797-1801, born, Quincy, Massachusetts, 1735



- Samuel Langhorne Clemens ("Mark Twain"), essayist and novelist, born, Florida, Missouri, 1835



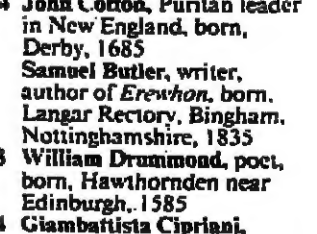
- Henry I, reigned 1100-35, died, near Rouen, 1135
- John Cotton, Puritan leader in New England, born, Derby, 1685
- Samuel Butler, writer, author of *Erewhon*, born, Langar Rectory, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, 1835
- William Drummond, poet, born, Hawthornden near Edinburgh, 1585
- Gianbattista Cipriani, painter, founder member of the Royal Academy, died, London, 1785
- Charles Sargeant Jagger, sculptor, born, Kilmhurst, Yorkshire, 1885
- Pierre de Ronsard, poet, died, Saint-Cosme, France, 1585
- Thomas Banks, sculptor, born, London, 1735
- Rufus Daniel Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, Viceroy of India 1921-26, died, London, 1935



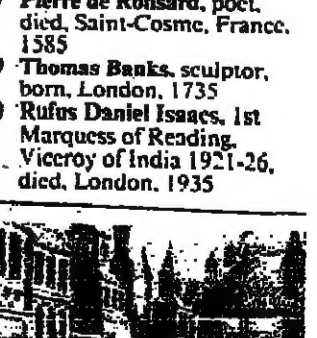
- Hernan Cortez, conqueror of Mexico, born some time in 1485, pictured above meeting Aztec chief Montezuma



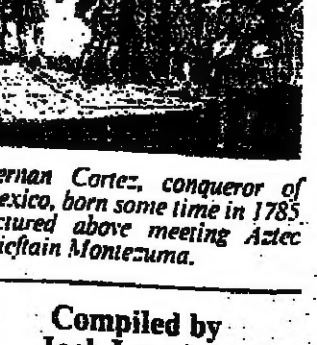
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens ("Mark Twain"), essayist and novelist, born, Florida, Missouri, 1835



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Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

Every week of the year. Price 70p

THE TIMES DIARY

Taki's last straw

Taki, the Greek millionaire and *Spectator* High Life columnist who is in Pentonville for cocaine smuggling, is to be sent back to the US by the Home Office when he is released next month. The news was broken to the distraught Greek millionaire on Christmas Eve. Taki, who was signed up by *The Observer* to write his prison memoirs and cocaine revelations, carries a US passport and under immigration law Pan Am, the carrier which brought him here, will have to pay for his return. As a result of the order, I am told he has lost all remission on his four-month sentence, and has been stripped of his job running Pentonville's gym. Taki, who recently sold his £250,000 London house to buy a flat in Egerton Gardens in Chelsea, was sacked from his job with *Family Fair* in New York because of the case. In appealing against the sentence, Taki's solicitor, John Mathew said the Greek Davis Cup player and Olympic skier was now "professionally destroyed".

Thumbs down

Julian Lloyd-Webber gets a public rap over the knuckles in a rare outburst by the 85-year-old pianist, Gerald Moore. A recent claim by Lloyd-Webber that he never allows his left hand to touch water for fear of softening his fingers has not amused the veteran musician. "How does he wash his right hand? How does he manage in the bathtub?" Moore asks in a letter in tomorrow's *Classical Music* magazine. "Such a ludicrous gimmick never occurred to Casals or Rostropovich. This young cellist should follow their example and devote the next few years to patient and persistent industry before it is too late." One wonders how Lloyd-Webber copes with his hobby listed in *Who's Who*: keeping turtles. Rubber gloves?

Wintour de force

Charles Wintour, former editor of the *Evening Standard* and the *Sunday Express* magazine and recently an almost obsessive critic of Fleet Street bingo and the gutter press, has found himself the ideal soapbox. I am told he is to become editor of the *UK Press Gazette* following John Gerard's retirement. After his recent takeover by Bouverie publishing, great things are planned; indeed, the *Gazette*, generally regarded as a journalists' jobcentre, has even appointed a literary editor, Clive Sandground, former editor of the *Scottish Sunday Mail*. How the mighty have fallen.

● Not many trade unions can boast a member inside the Cabinet. The Society of Authors, however, has just recruited Douglas Hurd, Northern Ireland Secretary and spare-time novelist. Will he, I wonder, appear at the Society's rally on January 16 to denounce government plans to put VAT on books?

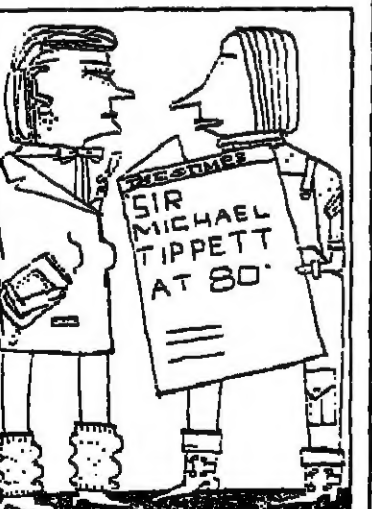
Pekin order

Hong Kong entrepreneurs have managed to turn even the return of the territory to China in 1997 to financial advantage. First they opened a 1997 Restaurant, then they produced 1997 T-shirts, and now they have invented a 1997 board game. The winner is the first to surmount diverse obstacles and emigrate; the loser is a Chinese Communist cadre.

Boys' own

Gordon Reece, Mrs Thatcher's affable, champagne-tipping Svengali, has perhaps been at the receiving end of her advice. According to one of his close colleagues, Reece may be thinking of setting up his own PR business - a story he has since denied to me. I am told the worry is that "heavy" clients may be put off by Reece's lightweight spontaneity; the PM adores him because he makes her laugh. "He's not one for lengthy briefings," said my source. "For instance when Mrs T was being interviewed by Jimmy Young, Reece just picked up the phone, told her to call them (the Army) 'Our Boys' and that was it."

BARRY FANTONI



"It will be such a relief when Neville stops going around trying to whistle his tunes"

Loveless

Poor Betty Trask. Despite prize money totalling £17,500 there must be doubt whether her memorial award for new romantic fiction will survive its second year. By Monday's deadline a mere 30 entries had been received, the bulk from amateur scribbles and just four from publishers. In desperation the organizers have now extended the deadline till the end of January.

PHS

White elephant graveyard

A special correspondent lists the many blunders in developments of the Sahel and urges a radical change in attitudes and methods to avert further disastrous famine.

Twelve years ago pictures from the Sahel shocked Europeans as much as those now from Ethiopia. Once aid had been dispatched, media attention turned to other issues, and the region's future was left to the African governments and international organizations. Since then expertise, technology and billions of dollars have been devoted to the area's problems. But the optimistic rhetoric of development cannot conceal that the Sahel is now far more vulnerable than just before the last catastrophe.

The gap between theory and result in Africa is baffling to the newcomer. In the Sahel, near the Mali-Burkina Faso border, I visited rural projects with a UN mission. The villagers proudly showed us the dam they were completing. It was an impressive structure 15 feet high made of rocks dragged from miles around and secured with wire mesh. The effort required in those conditions was almost beyond imagination. But the dam had been incorrectly sited.

Their reservoir will be so extended and shallow that the water will evaporate soon after the rains. A few hundred yards further on, a depression offered a far more effective basin.

Later, I visited regional warehouses stocked to the roof with donated foodstuffs. There was a strange humming noise, but it was not electrical as I first thought. The sacks were completely infested with insects, and termites had built nests up the side of boxes. These supplies had been delivered in May, yet five months later, the local authorities said they could not get transport for distribution, although all costs would be met by the European Development Fund.

The problem was not corruption, but administrative paralysis. Fear of losing their relatively privileged positions makes officials reluctant to take any decision. UN organizations frequently find that it takes three weeks or more to obtain signatures for the despatch of a convoy.

The most spectacular failures in development have always been the most ambitious projects. Africa is a white elephant's graveyard of abandoned factories, unmaintained roads, collapsing bridges and vast dams producing disastrous side-

effects. The international organizations have begun to recognize the folly of a "heavy development" strategy, but they find it extremely difficult to escape what they started. African governments like impressive statistics as well as the opportunity for central control offered by large schemes.

At the request of the government of Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), the Food and Agriculture Organization is starting a concentrated project with \$42 million of Italian aid. UN officials on the spot admit privately that the scheme will be a waste, however valid the theory of an integrated irrigation and transport package might seem in the capital or in Rome.

From the beginning, the basic mistake in Third World development was to assume that technological expertise and money could provide instant progress. But our intervention has only managed to exacerbate a network of vicious circles in which causal relationship is as complex as a genetic chain. The central problem is over-population following the advent of modern medicine.

An unrelenting increase of 2.7 per cent per year in the Sahelian countries has led to over-grazing, soil exhaustion and deforestation, which contribute to erosion and climatic change. Tree-cutting for fuel has left strips of desert on either side of the main roads leading out of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. Population of the cities is growing at a rate of 6 per cent a year, more than double the regional average. The young, on whom any regeneration of the countryside depends, are enticed there by the impression of a consumer society, yet they are unable to find work and the shanty towns swell with frustrated masses. To forestall unrest, apprehensive regimes force down food prices with grain imports, which in turn destroy the rural economy. It is significant that

the rise in food imports has matched the growth in urban population.

The divide between city and countryside is increased by the African elite's distance from the peasantry. It is a rare event for a minister to visit villages in the bush. He would much prefer to make a speech inaugurating a major project, which will be reported in the newspapers. Sadly, he cannot relinquish faith in the strategy of "heavy development" sold to him by the industrial countries, even though they now recognize their mistake. He clings to those promises, such as Kissinger's prediction that world poverty would be eliminated in 10 years.

The miscalculation of post-independence development was based on the idea of a short cut to growth. The history of northern industrialization built on an agricultural surplus was ignored. Cash crops and industry, the theory went, would earn foreign exchange to buy western goods and generate an economic "take-off". Twenty years ago, when most West African countries were self-sufficient in food, cash crops may have seemed logical, but no allowance was made for the rapid increase in population, or the depression in commodity prices.

Food imports have set off their own vicious circle. The North American wheat brought in to fill the cereal deficit has encouraged a rapidly growing taste for white bread. Urban populations now prefer a continental breakfast of bread and Nescafé, and scorn the traditional millet cous-cous. To reduce the growing food bill from abroad, attempts have been made to grow as much as possible locally. But African wheat costs four times as much as North American, while most sugar cane and rice projects have failed. Even the excellent Chinese paddies fell into disuse shortly after their technicians left, because the pumps broke down.

There is no evil genius conspiring to thwart every project. Only the intractability of man and nature. Real progress can go no faster than the pace of cultural change among the mass of the population. A bewildering array of advice and experiments has been pressed on the African peasant by a host of different agencies: governmental, international, foreign, national, charities and churches. Most have been ill-conceived, and not only through needless sophistication.

It is not surprising if the African peasant shrugs his shoulders and returns to his old ways. Every project needs careful research, a simple scheme adapted to local skills, resources and customs, and a thorough follow-through. In West Africa the Dutch and the Germans are often the most successful because they follow these principles rigorously. A number of non-governmental organizations like Save the Children and Oxfam have also succeeded on a small scale. But United Nations agencies, trapped in the large project syndrome, suffer from all the problems of bureaucratic politics. Their relationship with client states is extremely difficult. Since aid became institutionalized, an air of unreality has affected African leaders. Planning conferences tend to degenerate into bargaining sessions during which the government presents a "shopping list", then the UN officials try to bring it down to practical levels.

The reluctance of African leaders to face reality was shown by the recent speech given by President, Sankara of Burkina Faso in Peking. "The happiness of our popular masses can never be achieved without the re-establishment of our identity, and the right to dispense our wealth freely."

Burkina Faso has a higher debt per capita than Mexico or Brazil. Its state revenues are estimated to cover only two thirds of its administrative expenses. Everything else is paid by foreign, mainly French, aid. Sahelian leaders find it difficult to accept the terrible future facing their peoples: a future of raging camps and Red Cross soup kitchens, which is already being planned. The next drought could well provoke an even worse famine than in Ethiopia.

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Defence spending: Rodney Cowton on Heseltine's escape plan

Next, the great disappearing act



In his efforts to balance the defence budget Mr Michael Heseltine may be abandoning the robust qualities of Tarzan, with which he is usually associated, for the more slippery attributes of Houdini.

Every year the Ministry of Defence looks 10 years ahead to achieve the best balance between military needs and the resources thought likely to pay for them. This year the review of the Long Term Costings, as they are known, is taking considerably longer than usual because the prospective gap between needs and means is getting wider.

Some academic analysts see commitments out-running resources by about 25 per cent by the end of the decade. Others believe that stringent management could achieve savings which would limit the imbalance to a manageable 4 per cent.

In terms of financial pressures Mr Heseltine has had it fairly easy in his first two years as Defence Secretary. The retreat from many of Sir John Nott's economy measures of 1981 has added about £2.4 billion over a 10-year period, but this has largely been accommodated because Sir John had previously built in a sizeable provision for contingencies.

The most unexpected contingency of all - the Falklands war - is projected to cost £3.2 billion in military spending over a decade, but this is being financed by the Treasury.

But in the next couple of years, just as spending on the Trident missile is gaining momentum, defence has to turn the corner from a period of a regular increase in real resources to one in which the Government's objective will be to achieve "level" funding, with no real growth at all.

This is quite likely to mean an actual reduction in the purchasing power of the available money. Four factors would tend to depress the real value of the defence budget:

- If the Government underestimates the general rate of inflation.
- If the rate of inflation in defence spending exceeds the general rate, as it normally does.
- If new equipment continues to work out more than twice as expensive as that replaced.
- If sterling fails to recover from its current low level against the dollar, in the next financial year this would add more than £300 million to the estimates made only a year ago.

Many people believe that the financial problems will force the Government to embark on the eighth major defence review since the Second World War. This Mr Heseltine is determined to avoid. And he thinks he sees how to do so.

The Long Term Costings, as Mr Heseltine constantly emphasizes, contain a great deal of flexibility. They are made up of two elements: spending which the services believe to be militarily necessary, but which has not received firm ministerial approval, and spending to which ministers are committed.

In terms of major purchases such as ships and aircraft, the element of ministerial commitment over the 10-year period is quite small. In the first year the ministerial commitment may be virtually 100 per cent, but in the third year barely 30 per cent of the projected spending will constitute a firm commitment, and in the later years this element will be as low as 10 per cent or less.

All this leaves ministers with plenty of scope for massaging spending into a programme which comfortably fits within forecast resources. If a mismatch looks like developing then purchases can be quietly deferred, or possibly dropped.

Because the Long Term Costings are secret, much of this could happen without anybody outside the services being any the wiser, and most importantly without any public understanding of the implications for the nation's long-term defence.

What provision is contained in the programme for replacing Chieftain tanks by 1995, when they will be almost 30 years old?

What provision is there in the costings for the planned new agile fighter for the RAF?

How many of the new Type 23 frigates are allowed for, and has the Government already abandoned its target of eventually ordering them at the rate of three a year?

What resources have been earmarked for new amphibious shipping to replace the assault ships *Fearless* and *Intrepid*?

What provision is made for the introduction of a new Identification Friend or Foe system, and for other equipment involving advanced technology which was included in the list of 11 items agreed by the NATO committee of national armaments directors earlier this year?

Such information would not be expected to constitute a firm commitment to the element, but it might help to reassure people that problems were not merely being swept under the carpet.

Continuous adjustments at the financial margin do, of course, constitute much better management than imposing the dislocations which tend to occur in a defence review. But defence reviews have the advantage of being moderately transparent enabling the public to see at least broadly what options were open, what decisions were taken and why, and a fixed point is created against which to assess developments in subsequent years.

Not so with a resolute massaging of the Long Term Costings. This is not to argue in favour of defence reviews, but in favour of more frankness. An important strand in the controversy over the decision to acquire Trident is based on the belief that it will squeeze out other necessary defence spending.

Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, was greeted with incredulity by Tory and Labour members of the Commons Defence Committee when he said before Christmas that he did not foresee the need for any major cutbacks in equipment programmes.

Mr Heseltine could do much to dispel this scepticism, and possibly to lower the temperature of the Trident debate, by indicating what allocations for some key equipment programmes are included in the Long Term Costings.

He might start by dealing with the following examples of projects which, cumulatively, have a substantial effect on the budget totals:

● What provision is contained in the programme for replacing Chieftain tanks by 1995, when they will be almost 30 years old?

● What provision is there in the costings for the planned new agile fighter for the RAF?

● How many of the new Type 23 frigates are allowed for, and has the Government already abandoned its target of eventually ordering them at the rate of three a year?

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Again, the pattern is the same as in the Middle East: smaller powers must patiently build the foundation for any eventual agreement between Washington and Moscow. And again, it should preferably be done on a Community basis.

The formula can be applied elsewhere, and to different problems. The Italians think there should be a follow-up to the meeting with Central American leaders in September. Argentina looms large in their thinking. They believe that the Community must help reinforce the democratic government. But here the Falklands issue remains a thorn because Britain still has no relations, even commercial, with what the Italians regard as a new Argentina.

Peter Nichols

Ronald Butt

No nostrums in nostalgia

To the resentful amazement of many who, by some sleight of mind, think they see politics from a detached position, Mrs Thatcher's government begins the New Year under no serious challenge, despite its inept handling recently of several politically sensitive questions. Even the groundswell of discontent in the Tory party arising from the failure of the unemployment figures to fall, despite economic recovery, has not yet done any serious harm.

It is true that the pressure from within the party for the Government to revert to the old inflationary practice of printing more money to spend on public works, in the hope that this would create more jobs, has its political as well as its economic dangers. What Westminster thinks today the public often tends to think tomorrow, and if a significant number of Tory backbenchers continue to join the Labour party in condemning the Government's economic policies as heartless, public opinion may increasingly come to believe that these policies must be so.

Yet when this political danger is acknowledged the fact remains that Mrs Thatcher is not now at any serious risk, and this is deeply offensive to all those whose rationalizing leads them to the conclusion that life before Thatcher was more reasonable, civilized, and humane. Those who think this are not simply moved by the conviction that there ought to be a credible alternative government in a parliamentary democracy. They are awayed much more by their distaste of everything that Mrs Thatcher stands for, and by intellectualized rage at the electorate's failure to hold the same opinion.

Indignation generally takes one of two sharply different forms. First, there is the unconcealed revolutionary zeal of Mr Benn and the hard left who wish not simply to turn Mrs Thatcher out but to overturn the whole political system. For Mr Benn, even the assassination of the prime minister would not have done the trick, though this insensate fanatic has contrived to write as though he was more contemptuous of the irrelevance of the Brighton bombing than appalled by its inhumanity. "If Thatcher was in truth the real problem," he observes coolly in *Marxism Today*, "the Brighton bombers might have solved it for us."

But to Mr Benn, it is the system that is wrong and in need of overturning, an argument which leads him to the old nostrum of annual parliament, a device that looks democratic but is really the opposite because it keeps MPs constantly subservient to the party machine on which they depend and denies the House of Commons an existence long enough to enable its members to evolve a corporate representative identity.

But the politics of the hard left are so detested in the country that in one sense they are not the Government's most dangerous enemy. Indeed, they are an incubus destroying the acceptability of the Labour Party and when Mr Scargill's challenge to democracy has finally been beaten back Mr Kinnock should have more immediate benefit than Mrs Thatcher. It will have freed him of the need to be quite so obedient to those elements in his party most disliked by the public.

The more dangerous attack on Thatcherism comes from those with a notion of moderation which they take from the Wilson and the Heath years. It assumes that humane government is one which borrows and spends for employment's sake, and tries to ward off consequential inflation by sacred incomes policies and planning for growth. It is a kind of nostalgia fixated on the Wilson years when good intentions were confounded by the refusal of the economy to grow as planned and the

inability of the unions to deliver wage restraint and productivity. It is even more bizarre to hear Mr Heath spoken of reverentially as a moderate by those who reviled him in his Selkirk period as hard faced and then jeered as he modulated to heavy spending and the imperatives of an incomes policy which led to the three-day week, a lost election, and the return to power of a Labour Party increasingly controlled by the left.

Still this kind of nostalgia does have a certain spurious credibility because it harks back to a pre-Thatcher golden age when unemployment was not the problem it is now. In fact, the circumstances were very different. There had been no hyper-inflation to be conquered, nor had the technological revolution taken place. Over-running remained unexposed; the seeds of inflation were laid, but had not begun to sprout. The present call for a retreat to the policies of those very different years evades the truth. This is that to succeed, any alternative to Thatcherism, has to build on Thatcherism, not reject it for the nostalgia of the Sixties or for the hard left's revolution.

Of these two positions, the Bennite is the more realistic as well as the more repulsive. The hard left knows that the danger to them is that Mrs Thatcher may succeed in making a free society work on a popular basis as it never has before, achieving this by giving individuals a stake and responsibility in it. They know what the left offers can only be imposed by force or guile; they understand the unreality of the theories of the Sixties, when socialism was masked in silk, though some of them also understand that a return to the confusion of those years could assist their cause.

The hard left therefore wishes to overturn, and the nation knows where it is with them. But the anti-Thatcher moderates, who look backwards, are more dangerous because public memories are short and a new generation arises, which does not remember that time. The lesson has to be taught that in British politics there is no going back. Ever since government in parliament has been the practice, one party replaces another which has made great changes with the peoples' consent only if it is prepared to build on what its predecessor has done.

That is what the Tories had to do after the postwar Labour landslide: it is what Labour has to do now if it is to have any hope. In some corners of the Labour Party there is the beginning of understanding that this must be so. There is a recognition that responsibility, property and a market economy have their attractions to ordinary people in a humane social context; that not everyone measures the goodness of a society by the power of the state to dispense and allocate.

But in most of the Labour Party this is no more understood than are the new public attitudes to union power. Only in the Social Democratic Party is there some comprehension that Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to be superseded until Thatcherism itself is accepted as a platform for political advance rather than retreat. The Liberals, incoherent and nostalgic for the Sixties, do not understand this, which is why Dr Owen is right to keep his party's distance from them.

The frustrated rage of the nostalgic "progressives", their attachment to outmoded criteria, and the failure of a credible opposition to emerge so far point to one simple truth. It is a mistake to be obsessed with looking backwards to a political fashion (gradualist in method, but often extreme in aim) which was suffused with socialist assumptions that are no longer relevant to the stage in society we have now reached.

Joseph Connolly

The Jo Show, with Terry woebegone

The short radio interview is truly a phenomenon. Whenever there is a new book to plug nonentities are herded to broadcasting stations in docile droves - such people being not so much cheap as free - to be trotted into oblivion and studded with jingles.

The interview I had to do one recent morning was harrowing in the extreme. The first whiff that all would not be smooth came from one of those girls whose job always seems to be merely to "take one through". "Hi, Terry," she breezed. "Been gardening long?" Well, it was early in the morning, so I thought I'd better be kind to the girl. "Jo, actually," I said. "I never garden for long - not having a garden, you know. Our eyes fused in bewilderment, each of us already convinced of the other's dementedness."

"Hi, Jo," trailed the producer, which I thought was much more like it. "Been gardening for a long time, have you?" Suddenly I was in the grip of an identity crisis. It was then I discovered that Terry the gardener was the next poor fool to undergo this humiliation.

"Never mind," conciliated the producer, whose name was, I think, Gideon. "The disc-jockey has been fully briefed." *Disc-jockey?* Gideon glowered with malice, and the girl said she'd take me through. She pressed a button and a door shot open, leaving me in an umbrous vacuum the size of a telephone box. Just press the red button and the other door will open and you'll be in the studio and don't make any noise because we're On Air and don't forget it's Wednesday.

"Best of luck, Jo," I twinkled and scuttled off.

I groaned aloud. I couldn't even find the bloody button, let alone press it, and now I was computing with a weak and mad despair that it wasn't Wednesday at all but Friday. Then the other door clunked open and someone said, "Come on, come on, come on, you're on in 20 seconds."

Good. Some even more-revolting than the usual pop record was lurking towards its demise. The disc-jockey glared at me over his sunglasses and warned: "We go in 10 seconds. Relax, Terry. Just relax." I held up a copy of my book in despair. The DJ, God help me, twiggled, switched texts, and just before the green light came on he whispered, "Don't forget it's Wednesday."

The programme had begun. "And now we have in the studio Joseph Connolly," he confided to the microphone, suddenly sounding American and excited. "How you doing, Jo?" "I'm having a lovely Wednesday, thank you very much," I babbled back. The awful tennis match was on, and just as quickly it was over.

I was hustled back into the midnight cubicle. I don't frankly believe that there were any buttons to work the damn door but it suddenly shot open again, scudding me on the side of the head. Who should be thrown into the void to join me but Terry the gardener, his lardy face palmed with terror while the girl told him not to forget it was Wednesday. Wednesday. Wednesday. Day.

"Best of luck, Jo," I twinkled and scuttled off.



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JUSTICE IN THE DOCK

Like so much else in recent Polish history, the public trial of four secret policemen charged with murdering Father Jerzy Popieluszko earns the epithet "unprecedented". Like so much else in history, it is open to several interpretations.

The terrible facts which are now sinking out of the Torun courtroom suggest very strongly that the secret police in General Jaruzelski's Poland behaved much as they do in any "normal" communist state: brutally, cynically and corruptly, with utter contempt for any law except orders from above. On the other hand, murderers are on trial, and we are learning at least some of the terrible facts. This is wholly abnormal for a communist state.

So far, the defendants have disclosed three original police plans for intimidating the outspoken pro-Solidarity priest. In the first, Father Popieluszko was merely to be held in a bunker in the forest and "persuaded" to reveal the name of Solidarity activists in hiding. This might be called the "liberal" plan. The second alternative was to hang him from a bridge over the River Vistula - again, just to teach him a lesson.

The "hard line" plan, however, was to force the priest's car off the road and then incinerate both car and occupant with the help of 20 litres of petrol which the assassins had already procured. In the event, Father Popieluszko seems to have died a still more horrible death, huddled into the boot of the policemen's car, beaten about the head, slowly strangled by a gag and noose, before being weighted down with a bag of stones - which the officers just happened to have handy - and thrown into a reservoir.

Under interrogation before the trial, the accused themselves suggested what almost everyone in Poland assumes, that the crime was instigated "at a very high level". One of them mentioned backing from a Deputy Minister in the Interior Ministry. Informed rumour has it that responsibility might lie as high as the Politburo man in charge of internal security affairs.

Yet here they are in court. Six months ago, Poland was preparing for the show trial of four leading members of the opposition. Instead, we have something like a show trial of four secret policemen. The first days of courtroom proceedings have not looked like a mere "trial for show" - a judicial farce. Nor has the defence so far tried to turn it into a posthumous show trial of

Father Popieluszko as some churchmen had feared it might. In the dock one police lieutenant has apparently argued, in partial contradiction to his pre-trial statements, that the murder was premeditated by no one except his immediate superior, one Captain Piotrowski, who ordered the killing on the spot. We must now see what Captain Piotrowski has to say for himself. Will he agree to be the main scapegoat? If so what sentence will he receive? Will the sentence be executed? Only if the answer to the last two questions is publicly satisfactory (but who will know if he is secretly released in a few months' time?) would Polish public opinion seriously consider that he was not covering up for the instigators of the crime, higher up in the police - and in the Party?

General Jaruzelski and his closest political advisers must be given some credit for bringing the immediate offenders so swiftly to trial; and, incidentally, for removing Party control of internal security affairs from General Milewski. However, the credit which they are given for this in the West would appear to be somewhat greater than the credit they are given for it by the Polish people. The mere opening of an unprecedented trial is hardly adequate recompense for such a shocking murder. Moreover, the government's own journalists/propagandists waver between maintaining that this was indeed a "provocation" against the Jaruzelski government, mounted by "hardliners" at the highest level, and implausibly suggesting that it was the work of one or two psychopathic loners, like Captain Piotrowski - exceptional bad characters in an otherwise selfless, dedicated and heroic police force. After all, the Jaruzelski team ultimately relies as much as the "hardliners" on these same policemen to keep them in their seats. So if the court proceedings do now follow the latter line, we will understand why.

As with the revelation of top level Party corruption during the Solidarity period, many Poles have reacted, not by praising the frankness of the communist authorities for making these revelations, but by exclaiming: "Well, if that is what they are admitting to..." Perhaps we in the West could do with a little more of their scepticism. Certainly we should appreciate that, were it not for pressure from the Polish Church and public opinion, this trial would not be happening at all.

NOT JUST A LITTLE LOCAL DIFFICULTY

Afghanistan in its sixth year of Soviet occupation constitutes a serious impediment to improving East-West relations. President Reagan's statement to this effect was confirmed by Moscow's immediate counter-attack blaming the Americans for making peace impossible by continuing to supply weapons to the Afghan guerrillas. Those that argue that reaching an accord on arms control is too important to be delayed by disagreements over the future of a minor underdeveloped country are wrong, since the situation in Afghanistan lies at the very heart of the major differences which make a substantial relaxation of international tension so difficult to achieve.

Of course the Soviet leaders resent any escalation in arming and training the resistance fighters who are already inflicting heavy casualties on the occupation forces. But this resentment must not be allowed to reduce the West's military support. On the contrary, prolonging the fighting is only justified when there is some hope of forcing the USSR to withdraw, and this means supplying the resistance with the missiles and expertise needed to destroy many more helicopter gunships and bombers.

Yet it is not enough to see the conflict in terms of an heroic David and Goliath struggle in which the West need only produce a better sling for right to triumph. The Communist authorities in Moscow and Kabul devote vast resources to persuading public opinion that backward Afghanistan is at last gaining an opportunity, through Soviet aid, of promulgating progressive economic and social reforms. There is indeed sufficient truth in these claims for them not to be dismissed out of hand.

While building roads and airports clearly does improve military logistics, constructing new factories has a long term aim. Already more than half the state sector of the economy is

dependent on assistance from the USSR. Thousands of young Afghans are being sent to Soviet schools and colleges in an attempt to produce a new technocracy loyal to the regime and prepared to abandon traditional ways in the name of economic progress. The security police, trained and controlled by the KGB, even maintains children's homes in which orphans from both sides in this bitter conflict are raised to serve the new order.

However, the progress actually achieved is small, and no greater than other forms of colonialism could claim. Afghans will hardly welcome a civilisation imposed by Soviet bayonets. It took more than a decade of bitter fighting to secure Bolshevik rule over the Muslims of Soviet central Asia, where Moscow's atheist rule is still widely resented despite economic achievements.

The West should emphasise that economic progress need not depend on Soviet methods of political coercion. The Afghan resistance cannot win by military means alone. Control of shipments of food aid will help, but even more valuable would be encouragement for a government in exile which unites the most effective guerrilla bands and offers a programme of reforms based on substantial Western support. Recognition of such a government by non-aligned countries would strengthen UN demands for a withdrawal.

Western broadcasts to the USSR and Soviet troops in Afghanistan should be strengthened. Since Washington is increasing funds and facilities for the Voice of America and Radio Liberty, the West European countries should cooperate in every way to help overcome Soviet jamming. As the USSR celebrates its victory over Nazi Germany forty years ago, its citizens should be made to recognise that it is their troops who are now the brutal occupiers of a neighbouring country.

Law and ethics on killing animals

From the Executive Director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Sir, It is unfortunate that today's leader (December 27) on religious slaughter should give such a one-sided view and that it should preempt a report due out shortly from the Government-appointed Farm Animal Welfare Council, which has made an in-depth study of the subject.

The RSPCA's objections to religious slaughter without pre-stunning are three-fold. First, the terror produced during pre-slaughter handling of the animal is considerable. Cattle are driven into a special pen and turned upside down, in which position they frequently spend more than a minute before having their throats cut.

Second, there is the pain associated with the cut itself. It is meaningless to compare this cut with "nicking oneself with a razor" - a comparison which has frequently been made. Third, there is the time taken between cutting the throat and the onset of insensibility. There is as yet no really satisfactory method of directly assessing insensibility, but some recent work from New Zealand, which records the length of time between the throat being cut and the loss of apparent co-ordinated attempts to rise, raises some disturbing implications. In the case of some calves this period lasted for as long as six minutes.

This work reinforces the more subjective observations in abattoirs where animals, after having their throats cut, have escaped from the pen and wandered about until finally collapsing from loss of blood.

The RSPCA, however, recognises that there is no room for complacency about current methods of pre-slaughter stunning, as the recent Farm Animal Welfare Council report on the *Welfare of Animals at the Time of Slaughter* (HMSO ref no 348) has indicated. Much work needs to be done to effect reforms in this area.

Those who are against the religious slaughter of animals without pre-slaughter stunning are sometimes accused of being racist. The RSPCA, as its title implies, is against all cruelty to animals, from whatever source, and makes no racial distinction where the welfare of animals is concerned.

In its final sentence your editorial questions the reasons for singling out these religious practices. It is not about animal welfare, but the law itself, which chooses to single them out. Yours faithfully, F. DIXON WARD, Executive Director, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex, December 27.

Reading with a purpose

From Mr Tim Devlin
Sir, I can assure Anne Sofer (feature, December 17) that Londoners have been taking *London Labour Briefing* very seriously. Last year this association increased its membership by 60 per cent. This year, with rate cuts, tax cuts, and the continuing "right-to-buy" campaign, we expect a similar increase again.

We Tories have not "written off" London at all! Yours faithfully, TIM DEVLIN, Secretary, Islington North Conservative Association, Leeson Hall, 18a Furlong Road, N7, December 17.

British Council

From Mr Peter Owen
Sir, Because of the present ineffectiveness of the Arts Council where books are concerned, I endorse Mr Gavin Scott's letter (December 15) regarding the importance of much more funding for the British Council.

I have recently attended a seminar at London University with East European and Yugoslavian publishers, writers and translators. A Polish lecturer stated that English books are sold on the black market and that her students are desperate to buy them. As the Poles have little hard currency, it was suggested that the British Council fulfilled the demand they could fund their activities in Poland with blocked currency.

Britain is among the most indolent countries in promoting its literature. Publishers and writers badly need support. The British Council, our only sponsored cultural outlet, is underfunded. It can no longer afford to buy adequate supplies of books for its overseas offices in order to properly promote distinguished British authors abroad. Even the French Government have made available funds for translations of their writers. Most other countries have done this for years.

With state support for books some English writers sell £50,000 copies of their fiction in Hungary and Romania! Several million pounds allocated to literature here would reap substantial benefits while being a negligible item in the national budget. Yours faithfully, PETER OWEN, Peter Owen Ltd, 73 Kenway Road, SW5, December 17.

Good companions

From the Editor of The Observer
Sir, Congratulations on your double century from a mere 194-year-old. Yours etc, DONALD TREFORD, Editor, The Observer, 8 St Andrews Hill, EC4, January 2.

Making our deterrent posture credible

From the President of The Association of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning Officers

Sir, Almost submerged in your comprehensive piece on "Defence and deterrence" (December 28) was a truth that the Government has of late affected to play down, if not altogether dismiss, I refer to your recognition of the fact that to be seen to have achieved a certain level of civil preparedness against the possibility of war is an essential complement to a policy of deterrence.

Time was when ministers acknowledged this truth publicly and unequivocally, but political expediency saw this position abandoned when the so-called peace movements decided to bring civil defence into their line of fire, condemning it as an activity designed to condition our people to the inevitability, indeed the acceptability, of nuclear war.

In reminding your readers of the relationship between civil defence and defence proper you have done a useful service, but there are implications in your statement that call for comment.

Contrary to what you imply, it is not necessary for this country, or any other pursuing a similar policy of deterrence, to embark on an economically crippling civil defence programme in order that a potential aggressor might be persuaded that

one is "prepared to face up to the practical consequences of deterrence failing". Indeed, any such programme would almost certainly entail erosion of defence proper and thus invite the very circumstance we aim to prevent.

In deciding how much is enough, ministers can fairly claim to have struck a serviceable balance between investment in defence proper and in civil defence: what is needed is not more investment in the latter but the conscientious discharge by all local authorities of the augmented civil defence functions laid on them in December 1983.

If these authorities were to take up the funds made available for this purpose and to institute the measures of civil preparedness now required of them by law this country would indeed have a civil defence capability sufficient to make our deterrent posture credible.

That we have not achieved this state is not so much the fault of central government, as you imply, but of the local authorities, which in too many cases are concerned not so much to protect those they serve but to oppose the Government on every issue and at every turn.

Yours faithfully, LESLIE MAJOR, President, The Association of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning Officers, Barlston House, 11, York, December 29.

The Gillick case

From Mrs. L. Carter

Sir, I have just listened to the Radio 4 news bulletin which has broadcast that Mrs Victoria Gillick has won her appeal and that doctors are now precluded from giving contraceptives or an abortion to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

An interview with a spokesman for the BMA followed, in which the interviewer and the spokesman have been speculating as to what doctors may feel if they have to tell parents that their daughters have come to them for this sort of advice.

Surely Mrs Gillick's appeal means that a doctor must say to a girl patient: "I'm sorry, but I can only treat you if you have the consent of your parents", and not that the doctor must say to the parents: "I have to report that your daughter has been to consult me on this matter."

Could we have immediate clarification of this before the debate, which will be heated, goes any further? Yours faithfully, UNA P. CARTER, St Marys Vicarage, Wharfedale, Spalding, Lincolnshire, December 20.

From Mr George Martelli

Sir, It's always the same argument: "They are going to do it anyway, so they must be protected from the consequences." But don't doctors believe that prevention is better than cure?

If it was not possible for an underage girl to obtain contraceptives or an abortion without informing her parents, might that not deter her from having sexual intercourse? Most girls of that age and over are naturally chaste. It is the climate of opinion created by the contraception

and abortion-on-demand lobby that makes it so difficult for them to remain so without being scoffed at as prudish.

The DHSS circular which has been pronounced illegal by the Court of Appeal was tackling the symptoms, not the cause of a social evil.

I am, Sir, etc, GEORGE MARTELLI, Wood Manor Cottage, Bridport, Dorset, December 21.

From Dr G. W. Fairbairn

Sir, Dr R. Newell (December 14) writes in defence of embryo research, arguing that as many embryos die during some stage of pregnancy anyway, then it is of no consequence if others are killed during the course of research. I would answer simply that all humans die eventually: does that mean we are free to kill anyone in the interests of medical research?

I would also point out that many, if not most, of those who oppose embryo research also oppose abortion on demand, to which Dr Newell refers.

I do not doubt, for one moment, that those who favour embryo research are well intentioned. However, the frightening fact appears to be that without an absolute framework of morality with respect to the dignity of human life (as provided in Christian belief) there is a very real danger that disposing of life before birth, for either medical research or reasons of personal convenience, could lead to the assumption of the right to dispose of life after birth for similar reasons or for more sinister political purposes. Yours faithfully, G. W. FAIRBAIRN, 181 Upper Road, Leicester, December 14.

Premature-baby units

From Mr Marcus Setchell

Sir, A recurring theme in the National Health Service is its failure to respond to and fund appropriately the technological advances in medicine.

Over the last 10-20 years there have been considerable advances in the care of very small premature babies so that many of these babies born as early as 26 weeks gestation, and sometimes weighing under 2lb, now have a very good chance of survival. However they require prolonged stay in premature-baby units, thus occupying a cot for many weeks - a consequence there is a greatly increased demand for such special facilities in our hospitals.

The cost of intensive premature-baby care precludes every maternity hospital maintaining a unit for these very small babies and it has long been practice to transfer the newborn baby, or possibly the mother shortly before birth, to a hospital where there are such facilities.

A recent experience at this hospital, when no fewer than 14 premature babies were telephoned in order to transfer a very small baby, has highlighted the problem again. In this case, no cot could be found and so the mother had to be delivered of her baby in this hospital, which does not have intensive premature-care facilities, and only after 24 hours was it possible to find a unit to which the baby could be transferred. It is often those first 24 hours which are the most critical for the baby.

Pakistan referendum

From the Ambassador of Pakistan

Sir, Your harsh leader on the Pakistan referendum (December 20) pays no attention to the fact that it has paved the way for the holding of general elections to the federal and provincial assemblies within the next three months in order to establish civilian rule, thus ending martial law.

Zia-ul-Haq acted democratically in asking the nation to approve or disapprove of his governmental policies of the past 7½ years (including the Islamic measures) through a referendum.

Those who oppose the Zia regime had the choice of saying "no" in the ballot paper.

The polling on December 19 was, by and large, orderly and peaceful. Nearly 62 per cent of the enrolled 34 million voters took part in the referendum and of those who voted, over 97 per cent favoured President Zia-ul-Haq. In spite of the ominous forecasts of his opponents and the attempt by some political parties to sabotage the poll, the voting was generally peaceful which does credit to the law and order agencies.

If most Pakistanis favour President Zia-ul-Haq they do so because the track record of his Adminis-

Harsh medicine in times of need

From Dr R. R. Charlwood

Sir, A patient of mine recently died of cancer of the lung. He was an old man, living alone in a council flat, and his last months were eased by an effective analgesic drug. Another elderly man in similar circumstances with a malignant pleural effusion has a chest pain which is made bearable by the same drug taken every four hours. I have a letter from the Chief Medical Officer at the DHSS suggesting that in future he will expect patients to pay the cost of such relief.

I have looked at my last 1,000 prescription items and find that 142 of these may have to be paid for in future. Of these items, 77 were for patients over retiring age and 28 for children below 15, both groups who are presently entitled, to free prescriptions.

Forty-five items were for the relief of what the DHSS calls moderate pain: for patients with rheumatism, arthritis, osteo-arthritis, migraine and colitis: 26 of these items were for the elderly.

This does not seem to be the fairest or kindest way of reducing health service costs and I wonder if these facts are yet sufficiently appreciated by your leader writer (December 13) or, more importantly, by those patients who will soon be expected to pay for the easing of their pain?

Yours sincerely, R. R. CHARLWOOD, Hensting Lane, Fishers Pond, Eastleigh, Hampshire, December 30.

Peace in the trenches

From the Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford

Sir, The interesting article (December 24) about the Christmas peace on part of the western front in 1914 contained the statement: "It was never to happen again." This is not strictly accurate.

There must have been some fraternisation at Christmas, 1915, though the scale was no doubt far smaller. Captain Sir Ian Colquhoun of Luss, 1st Scots Guards, was convicted by court martial in January, 1916, for allowing his men to fraternise.

He was defended by Lieutenant Raymond Asquith, whose remarks about the case will be found in John Jolliffe's *Life and Letters* (1980), pp 232-6. Colquhoun won the DSO later that year.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL BROCK, Nuffield College, Oxford, December 26.

Famine in Africa

From Mr Colin Mackenzie

Sir, You kindly published on December 11 a letter from my colleagues, Mr Islam and Mr Doria, about our early warning system of food shortages and the Food and Agriculture Organization's frequent forecasts of serious food shortages which in fact had been given since late 1982.

I regret therefore that in the article by Robert Fisk in your issue of December 20 he repeats the canard that the UN drastically underestimated the probable famine in the sub-Saharan region. This is not only untrue but the reverse of the case. All through 1983, we were in fact accused in some quarters, including the media, of exaggerating the food shortages.

The same article reports Mr Peter Cutler, of the London-based International Disaster Institute as criticising the UN system for relying solely on satellite imagery and Third World data systems instead of getting out of their offices and talking to peasants. This is again quite untrue, as our letter of December 11 showed.

I am glad to note that Mr Cutler is now working in Kassala, but perhaps it is not surprising that a small institute located in London is not aware that in addition to several more sophisticated sources of information, FAO has over 3,000 experts working in the Third World in the field, on the ground talking to peasants all the time and transmitting their direct observations from the field into the overall system.

By all means let us have criticism, but let it not be self-serving or inconsistent, and instead of looking for scapegoats, let us examine constructively how the necessary help, which is still inadequate, can be found for the drought-stricken countries.

Yours etc, COLIN MACKENZIE, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy, December 27.

tration in the past 7½ years is attractive. He has given Pakistan peace, stability and one of the highest economic growth rates in south Asia. There is no dependable alternative leadership.

Religion was the basis of the 1947 partition in the subcontinent and Islam was the motivating factor in the Pakistan movement. What wrong is there if Pakistani Muslims cling to the Islamic anchor?

Yours faithfully, ALL ARSHAD, Embassy of Pakistan, 35 Lowndes Square, SW1, December 24.

JANUARY 3, 1986

Doctor (later Sir) Leander Starr Jameson was the chief instrument in carrying out the policies of Cecil Rhodes in the latter's aim to extend British influence from the Cape to Cairo. In 1895 the discontent of the "Uitlanders" - non-Boer whites - under President Kruger's government in the Transvaal was coming to a head and plans were laid there for an armed rising. Jameson with Rhodes's approval assembled a force on the border of the Transvaal to use it in Johannesburg if needed. He decided, however, to act on his own initiative and on December 29, 1895 crossed the border on the famous "Raid". His troops were captured by Boer commandos and the "Uitlanders" failed to rise.

"Following message received from British Agent, South African Republic January 2

I have just seen the Executive General. He says as far as he knows Jameson has been driven from several positions. The burghers have 22 wounded prisoners, including three officers and 30 other prisoners. Five dead bodies have been buried by the burghers. Last information, fighting still proceeding. No force has yet moved out of Johannesburg to assist Jameson.

Information received by Government of further British South Africa Company's forces mobilizing to enter Transvaal and a Kaffir commando within Transvaal on Bechuanaland border. The Free State ready to assist Transvaal if required.

Jameson surrounded by large force close to Krugersdorp. Railway line between Krugersdorp and Johannesburg has been broken up.

"Following telegram received from Acting President of Orange Free State today:-

"I have the honour to inform your Excellency that 1,800 burghers have been mobilized for the defence of a position about 16 miles on this side of the Vaal River."

"Following message received from British Agent in South African Republic: Jameson's force surrenders."

Christian names in 1984

From Mrs Margaret Brown and Mr Thomas Brown

Sir, As in previous years, we send you our annual analysis of Christian names given to children whose birth or adoption was announced in the Times during the previous months.

James remains, for the twenty-first year in succession, the most popular name for boys. Elizabeth remains the lead among the girls, as she has done for the last nine years.

Nicholas has joined the league. Robert and Alice have dropped out. Jonathan and Caroline increased in favour.

The table for first names shows James once again the most popular name for boys, while Sarah has replaced Charlotte, gaining the lead among the girls for the first time since 1981:

James	150	(1)	Sarah	59	(2)
Thomas	138	(2)	Lucy	56	(6)
Edward	88	(3)	Charlotte	52	(1)
William	86	(4)	Emily	52	(5)
Alexander	85	(5)	Sophie	52	(13)
Nicholas	81	(8)	Victoria	50	(3)
Charles	67	(7)	Katherine	49	(7)
Christopher	60	(6)	Elizabeth	47	(17)
Oliver	52	(12)	Alexandra	46	(4)
David	52	(9)	Laura	43	(10)
Richard	52	(9)			

Two first names which received increasing favour during 1984 were Amy (24) and Samuel (26), in 22nd and 24th places respectively.

Four thousand eight hundred and twenty-one births were announced, of which 2,488 were boys and 2,333 were girls. The following summary shows how many names each was given:

Name	Boys	Girls	Total
------	------	-------	-------

The number of sets of twins recorded in 1984 was 56, of whom 20 were boys, 16 were girls and 20 were mixed. There were two sets of triplets, each made up of three boys.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET BROWN, THOMAS BROWN, 19 Wigington Terrace, York, January 1.

Dressing down

From Mr Harry Cooksley

Sir, I was surprised at the Reverend David Reindorp's comments (December 20) on the clergy's standard of dress. Is it fashionable to be shabby?

As a funeral director, I believe relatives expect us to be well dressed, neat and tidy. Mourners also make a special effort to be "properly" dressed on what is for them, a very important occasion. It is therefore very noticeable when some clergy are tending the procession in creased, surplus, black cassock and scruffy brown shoes.

They may not be able to see their own footwear - but everyone else can. The sole may not be as important as the soul, but it is nice to see both in good order.

Yours sincerely, HARRY COOKSLEY, 32 Nicholas Road, Uphill, Weston super Mare, Avon.

Smug in a rug

From Mrs Susan Twiddy

Sir, I was delighted to read of the prospect of a more comfortable and easy life for sheep (photograph and comment, December 22). As they will now need to speed less time eating, has thought been given to providing worthwhile leisure pursuits so that not too long is spent merely wool gathering?

Yours faithfully, SUSAN TWIDDY, 8 Forchester Road, Newbury, Berkshire.

0121 201520

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A year for building on established reputations

Nineteen eighty-four saw several business reputations tarnished. There was a small crop of new, or newish, faces lined with early achievement and shining with promise. Rarely is that not true of any year. The unusual aspect of 1984 was the luster added to some already notable careers. It would be wrong to call 1984 the year of the golden oldies; only that the year proved, in business at least, that vigour and vision are not the prerogatives of under fifties.

It is not easy to change the shape and direction of a big company in ways that are perceived to be right and also likely to bring major benefits to the profit and loss account in the shorter, not merely the longer, term.

Companies in this country do not come much bigger than BAT Industries and in Patrick Sheehy, BAT has a chairman capable of acting in the grand manner. Certainly in first world countries, tobacco is no longer regarded as an expanding business; the challenge to the tobacco companies is to deploy the considerable funds that nevertheless flow from it into other significant and commensurately profitable areas.

Poor logic

BAT began diversifying more than 20 years ago and succeeded in constantly getting egg on its face. Its logic was poor and the ability to make two and two make even three and a half was too often lacking. With the advent of Pat Sheehy that has changed. BAT's vigorous and victorious pursuit of Eagle Star has been followed by the imaginative purchase of Hambro Life. The tobacco giant is suddenly a force on the scene where most believe the light is brightest, namely financial services. BAT is also recognizing its failures: it has sold International Stores to Decca Corporation and its cosmetics division to Beecham. As it was the acquisition of Yardley that began BAT's expensive comedy of errors, the withdrawal from cosmetics is symbolic.

It is no disrespect to Sir David Orr, now active as chairman of Incheape, to note

the impact of the newly-knighted Sir Kenneth Durham at Unilever. The problems of Unilever plc are three: again sheer size, which makes major changes in direction difficult to accomplish; the maturity or slow growth of many of its markets (in part the legacy of Empire); and something akin to Civil Service methods and attitudes in its decision-making. The highly pragmatic, no-nonsense approach of the sharp-witted Lancastrian now in the chair has let much needed light and air into Unilever's corridors.

Master stroke

Racal Electronics, one of the few great success stories from a standing start in British manufacturing industry since the war, is rightly identified with Sir Ernest Harrison. His decision to take over Decca, which he did with the blessing of the late, great Sir Edward Lewis, was a master stroke.

In the last two years, Racal has found the going harder and its stock market following diminished. Racal's existing businesses, where necessary, will undoubtedly right themselves. Cellular radio is a bright start in the Racal firmament. But another master stroke was called for — and it came. Racal's acquisition of Chubb & Son is likely to prove as valuable as the integration of Decca.

Derek Palmer's inspired direction of Bass was commented on here yesterday. He has taken Bass into a different league from the rest of the brewing industry; a considerable achievement to crown his chairmanship.

Completing a nap hand is Sir Eric Sharpe, who brought Cable & Wireless out of the dull and dusty shadows of the public sector. Through his actions and in his beliefs he personifies the modern market economy man the Prime Minister is always looking for but finds less often than she would like.

It is a fascinating coincidence that Cable & Wireless is reborn at a time that Communist China has accepted the practical virtues of western capitalism. It bodes well for both.

Shadow over BA flotation

The British Airways flotation appears to be in a kind of uneasy limbo, not yet grounded but equally not yet cleared for takeoff. The mid-February target date that Lord King and his colleagues have been so keen to meet will pass. It is now clear, without the State airline coming to the market.

On the Government side, this is not quite the disaster that might be imagined. The Treasury does not need the proceeds to meet the current year's asset sales target; and while there would have been many advantages in cashing in immediately on the success of the Telecom issue while the embers were still warm, investors' pockets, delay until later this year need not be cause for undue alarm.

Uncertain policy

The BA board, having returned the airline to a platform of comfortable profitability which seemed improbable four years ago, is naturally keen to obtain the rewards of privatization as soon as possible. But with so many critical aviation issues, such as the future of Stansted and the tussle over North Atlantic air fares still to be resolved, there is a school of thought in Whitehall at least which argues that the taxpayer may well obtain a better return from privatization if the next few months are devoted to clarifying the clouds of uncertainty which continue to eddy round Britain's air transport policy.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that it is one issue — and one issue alone — which is now holding up the share sale. This is the outstanding claim by the liquidator of Laker Airways, Christopher Morris, whose \$1,000m civil action against BA and various other airlines alleging that they conspired to put Laker out of business three years ago continues to hang like a millstone around any potential prospectus for the BA share sale.

The view in Whitehall — borne out by previous privatization experience — is that the other outstanding matters such as the

balance-sheet reconstruction can and will be quickly settled as soon as the Laker problem is out of the way, it being in both the airline's and Whitehall's interest to reach an amicable settlement as soon as possible.

Sudden prominence

Without a Laker settlement, it is common ground that the flotation cannot proceed: the Government is refusing (not without reason) to give an open-ended indemnity to BA against Laker damages it may eventually have to pay up.

The civil action is very much a matter for BA and Mr Morris to sort out between themselves and until some progress is made on that score, the rest of the pre-flotation negotiations between BA and Whitehall are proceeding diligently rather than with great urgency. There is some mystery about the sudden prominence of concern about the Laker suit. For most of last year, those close to BA and indeed the Government were tending to play it down, pointing out for example that BA's liability — even if it lost the case — was likely realistically to be only a fraction of the \$1,000m claimed. In the action, and hinting that some settlement was imminent.

The BA directors themselves said in the last annual report and accounts that they considered the claim to be without foundation. Putting something similar in a prospectus, however, appears to have taxed even the normal ebullient confidence of the BA board — a last-minute modification of attitude on BA's part which the Government camp professes to be surprised and disappointed by.

Throughout the last few months, the one man who has remained tactfully and prudently silent is Mr Morris. He can afford to be: despite the blow of President Reagan's decision to order the dropping of the related Justice Department investigation into the Laker collapse in the United States, Mr Morris is well aware that the Laker shadow over the flotation has strengthened his bargaining hand.

Crocker cash injection leaves Midland dividend uncovered

By William Kay, City Editor

The shares of Midland Bank fell 34p to 340p at one stage yesterday after the bank revealed that the 1984 dividend would be uncovered by profits because of the need for fresh provisions against bad debts by its 57 per cent owned Californian subsidiary, Crocker National Corporation. The shares recovered to 347p after the bank assuaged fears of a rights issue.

It is now expected that Crocker has made a loss of \$215 million (£187 million) in the fourth quarter of 1984, largely because of a provision for loan losses of \$326 million.

At the same time, Midland is to inject \$250 million into Crocker through an 8 per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock in Crocker.

This has enabled Crocker to strengthen its capital position by \$400 million through additional short-term borrowings.

However, the deterioration at the US bank has led Midland to renegotiate the terms under which it planned to buy the 43 per cent of Crocker it does not own.

For every Crocker share, Midland is offering one share of perpetual adjustable rate preferred stock. Previously this had a face value of \$30, but this is being cut to \$27.

Midland has removed a promise to pay up to another \$3 a share related to Crocker's profits over the next three years. These changes will save Midland up to \$30m.

Sir Donald Barron, Midland's chairman, said yesterday that the provisions stemmed from a more stringent view of Crocker's existing loans, rather than the discovery of any fresh loans.

He blamed the new problems on "continued economic deterioration in the area in which Crocker operates". Specifically, he cited the high value of the dollar, the large European surpluses of grain and wine which became apparent after the 1984 harvest, and weakness in the oil market.

Together, these factors have cut Californian land prices, taking the value of land used as collateral for loans below the value of those loans.

Sir Donald added: "It became clear to us that the only prudent course was to write off a substantial amount of these problem loans."

"These steps will clear the decks for the future and give us confidence that we can go forward with Crocker as part of an integrated international group. The ongoing situation is entirely satisfactory."



Sir Donald: 'situation is entirely satisfactory'

Mr Geoffrey Taylor, group chief executive, admitted, however, that the Crocker crisis would have "a severe impact" on the Midland's earnings, despite a satisfactory performance by the rest of the group. The dividend, which cost £58 million last year, would be unchanged. But it will be partly uncovered on the bank's current estimates.

Last year the bank made a pretax profit of £225 million. The dividend was paid out of an attributable profit of £114 million. In the half-year to last June a pretax profit of £70

million boiled down to an attributable £50 million.

So yesterday's admission implies that, after provisions and other exceptional items, the second six months of 1984 will have produced less than £8 million net.

But Mr Michael Julien, the finance director, pointed out that the group had reserves of more than £1 billion. Sir Donald and his colleagues were confident that the latest provisions would take care of any further problems.

Mr Taylor said: "Our free capital ratio will be about 4 per cent, compared with 4.6 per cent a year ago."

He denied that there would be any need for a rights issue of shares. But clearly the question of raising extra capital has been discussed and Midland may issue perpetual floating-rate notes under the new Bank of England guidelines.

Sir Donald defended the Midland's decision to invest in Crocker, which will have cost about £500 million without taking account of bad debts.

He said: "The alternative would have been for the Midland to remain a United Kingdom bank with a declining base because of the strength that its competitors were drawing from their international operations."

Sterling touches \$1.14

By David Smith, Economist Correspondent

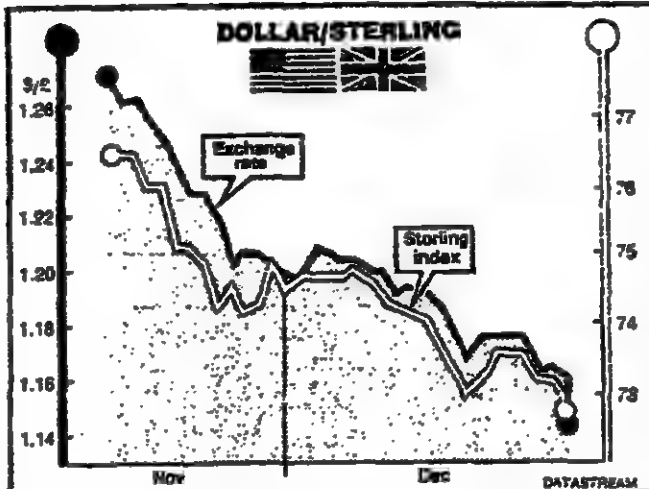
Pressure for a rise in clearing bank base rates mounted yesterday after another day in which the pound dropped to new lows. Sterling closed 1.2 cents down against the dollar at \$1.1465, having traded at \$1.1398 during the early afternoon.

The sterling index fell to a new closing low of 72.5, down 0.5 on the day, but up on a mid-session level of 72.3.

The pound's latest fall is mainly a result of dollar strength, with the US currency gaining 2.55 pence at DM3.1770, the highest level since floating exchange rates began in 1973. Concern over oil prices also affected sterling, however, and this was reflected in loss of nearly two pence at DM3.6360.

Some dealers also said concern over fourth quarter losses at the Midland Bank's American subsidiary, Crocker, may have affected sterling.

Many money market dealers now expect the British authorities to acquiesce to a rise in clearing bank base rates because of the pound's weakness. Yesterday, the three-month interbank rate rose further, to 10 1/2-10 3/4 per cent, and is now out of line with base rates which are 9 1/2 per cent for Barclays



and 9 1/2 per cent for Lloyds, National Westminster and Midland.

One possible move, it was suggested, was that Lloyds, National Westminster and Midland would lift their rates to 9 1/2 per cent, as a signal to the foreign exchanges that the authorities are not prepared to see sterling fall much further.

A more widespread money market view was that a more dramatic move in base rates may be required. The trigger for any base rate move could be next Tuesday's provisional money supply figures, for banking December.

Gold dips to lowest for two years

By Michael Preet

Gold is but a heartbeat away from falling below \$300 an ounce for the first time in more than two years after slipping by another \$4 yesterday to close in London at \$305.50.

Dealers said that trading was quiet but that support for the metal was evident after it softened from the morning fix of \$306.25, itself about \$3 less than the close on the last business day.

The market remains demoralized by the apparently invincible dollar and generally weak commodity prices. One analyst said: "It is a pure reflection of dollar strength."

There was some indication of a firming on Comex, however. The February futures contract traded briefly in the morning in New York at \$306.30, but recovered after it became clear that there was no move selling at this level.

Market sources pointed out that gold had traded in Sydney, Australia, at \$305 before Christmas, but that the intervening holiday had disguised the metal's underlying weakness.

Charities maintain that if gold falls below \$300, which they consider very likely, the next resistance point is \$268.

Concern at SE costs

By Alison Eadie

The Stock Exchange Council meets next Tuesday to consider the future membership structures of the market amid growing concern among smaller SE firms that too low a price will be put on membership, thus giving away the SE's considerable assets to new entrants.

The Exchange's discussion paper on membership is due out in a few weeks' time, but the Council's proposals on possible seat or membership prices are far from fixed. Any change in the membership rules or the deed of settlement will need a 75 per cent vote in favour by members, so members in the smaller firms will have considerable influence.

The Council is aware of the concerns and influence of the smaller firms, which are not selling out to big banks or financial institutions, and is unlikely to propose anything too detrimental to them.

Dates vary all the time but structure alters rarely is one of the truisms of historical analysis, on a par with the quip: "All we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history."

Nevertheless, any comparison between the City of 1785 and the Square Mile 200 years later must concentrate initially on the points of convergence. They are striking.

The start of 1985 sees the authorities negotiating round a tricky policy mix. This involves cataloguing the relentless fall in sterling, while supervising structural change in the City via a spate of mergers. The money supply needs careful management during a period of accelerating liquidity, after the successful British Telecom flotation. Once again, the banking system looks imperilled, after the Johnson Matthey imbroglio.

Lebanese is fairly widespread, and as is so often the case, this is paralleled by friction between the Government and the official City market managers. Coal-field brawls breed market worries, and similar unrest.

Roughly 200 years ago, the official history of the Bank of England, written by John Guessepi, records the following events. In the early 1780s, the Bank of England itself was nearly torn down during the Gordon riots, and only determined militia and other citizens saved the country's gold. Bank of England lakdands were melted into bullets.

In 1764, a mania for speculation broke out in London. Lottery prizes offered by the Government to tempt investors to accept conversion of their 4 per cent annuities into reduced 3 per cent

annuities gave investors a taste of seeking money for nothing.

Francis market dealings led to one enterprise, the East India Company, getting into serious difficulties. Collapse was forestalled by limitations of the discount facility introduced by the Bank of England.

Credit was threatened throughout Europe. Traders switched their cash holdings into the Bank of England's coffers. Eventually, the Bank reversed its limited discount policy, and Government aid for the East India Company was sought. The Bank solved the problem by leading the Treasury £1.4 million at 4 per cent "for the relief of the East India Company". Simultaneously, the Bank was obliged to bail out various banking houses that had speculated unwisely in the market boom.

The War of American Independence added greatly to the Bank's work of managing loans for the Government. When Britain recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, the national debt had virtually doubled from £128 million to £250 million. The Bank's staff had risen almost pro rata. In 1760, it was 264, and in 1790 it was 375.

Hence speculation, collapse and delicate market management appear to be hallmarks of both periods. There are parallels between the Bank's relationship with Government in the present. Construction

IN BRIEF Profit-takers hit prices

Profit-takers, cashing in some of their festive gains, hit share prices yesterday. At the close the FT 30 share index, which had surged to a peak on New Year's Eve, was down 11.9 points, at 940.4 points. The more broadly based FT-SE share index was 12.2 points down at 1220.0 points.

Trading, however, was thin with relatively small transactions creating exaggerated price movements. But the Midland Bank rescue package for its troubled American subsidiary, vague worries about interest rates, and the downward flight of sterling, contributed to the market weakness.

Government stocks had an uncomfortable day with losses of up to 1/2p, although there were signs of a modest rally towards the close.

Market report, page 16

Steel dispute

The US has raised new problems over imports of European community steel pipes and tubes which negotiators will attempt to settle in Washington today.

The EEC had agreed to limit its exports to 7.6 per cent of the US market over the next two years, but Washington is insisting that EEC steel held in customs warehouses should be included in the 1985 quota.

India, the cricketing subcontinent, has changed hands in a £400,000 cash deal. The specialist printer, McCordale, has bought the John Widen company, which owns a number of cricketing publications, from Grays of Cambridge (International).

AIM ahead

AIM Group, the aviation and general engineers, has increased pretax profits for the six months to October 31 to £835,000 from £488,000. The interim dividend of 1.9p is unchanged.

Tempos, page 16

Hanson rebuff

Lord Sandon, chairman of Powell Duffryn, has again urged rejection of the £171 million bid from Hanson Trust. He says Hanson's formal offer document contained nothing to make him change his original view.

Jaguar's US sales rose 19.6 per cent last month to a record 2,139, from 1,789 in the same month a year ago. Sales for 1984 were up 14.1 per cent to 18,044.

Auditor chosen

Coopers & Lybrand has been appointed auditor of Royal Ordnance which is due to be privatized next year. Coopers advised the former Royal Ordnance Factories in its run up to incorporation, which took effect on January 1.

Oil pricing

Contrary to the impression given in our report yesterday, Mr Alec Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, and the British National Oil Corporation have denied that an agreement has been made with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to leave North Sea oil prices unchanged for at least a month.

Square Mile comes full circle

THE TIMES 1785-1985

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started in 1731, and was largely completed by 1788, in the aftermath of the Gordon riots.

With the permanence of the architectural presence, the continuity of tradition, private banks were very restricted in their scope of operation 200 years ago, allowing the Bank to protect its role as monopoly supplier of credit.

The Bank was already operating in various markets through representatives, notably via Maccata and Goldsmith in the bullion market. Shortly after 1785, Mallets would undertake a similar role in the gilt-edged market.

In 1785, bank rate was 5 per cent, and gilt prices swung violently through a trading range of about 28 points. Already there were criticisms, notably from stockholders, of the Bank's secrecy in its dealings. On Monday January 3, 1785, business in the funds was very slack; most of the 25 or so traded stocks record Shut or Nothing Done.

But one vital difference between 1785 and the present day emerges through scrutiny of the list dated May 5, 1785, of the Bank's servants and their wages.

The Bank had a payroll of 378, ranging from cleaners through house porters to servants responsible for bank stock. Well-known City names crop up in the list, including a Mallets, a Cooper, a Walker, a Gillman and even a Pemberton. The top wage paid was £250, and the bottom was £20. The contemporary equivalent of £250 may be as low as £7,400 — hardly enough to hire a secretary. Plainly the Bank has moved with *The Times* in some respects.

Christopher Dunn

Indesit lays off 2,300 workers

A total of 2,300 of the 3,400 workforce has been laid off at Indesit, the Turin maker of white domestic appliances which in the 1970s flooded Britain with low-cost refrigerators.

The company had already taken this decision before a fire at the weekend caused damage estimated at 1,000 million lire (£450,000) at its plant near Anversa, Southern Italy.

The authorities believe the fire was caused by a short circuit, though arson is not ruled out. The management decided on the redundancies pending agreement with the metal workers' union on a drastic restructuring of the company, which once employed 5,000.

But the unions denounced the decision as "a grave unilateral act" and are refusing to talk to management.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	940.4 (-11.9)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	81.21 (-0.50)
FT-SE 100	1220.0 (-12.2)
Bargains	19243
Dataseam USM	104.85 (+0.19)
New York	
Dow Jones	1204.88 (-6.74)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	Closed
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1220.7 (+20.38)
Amsterdam	185.8 (+4.7)
Sydney AO	729.0 (+3.0)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1118.4 (+10.5)
Generali	174.44 (+15.4)
Paris CAC	161.6 (-0.8)
Zurich	
SKA Generali	Closed

GOLD

London fixing	
6m \$306.25 2m \$365.50	
Close \$305.25 \$305.75	(£265.50)
288	
New York \$304.15	
Comex (latest)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL	230p +24p
Isle of Man Steam	148p +14p
Expley Trust	25p +5p
Sunlight Elect	11p +2p
Reardon Smith	11p +2p
Alpine Drinks	28p +2p
Ward White	218p +10p
Matthew Brown	285p +15p
Triple Foudries	38p +2p
Mellorware	153p +8p
TV Services Int	148p +6p
Centros	78p +4p
El Oro Mining	186p +7p

FALLS

Midland Bank	374p -27p
J. Hapworth	175p -7p
Adam Leisure	14p -1p
Comb. Tech. Corp	28 1/2p -2 1/2p
Immediate But Sys	52p -2p
Highland Elec	80p -5p
Uko Int	80p -4p
Curt Oil	53p -3p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£ \$1.1465 (-0.0122)	
DM 3.6365 (-0.0165)	
Swfr 3.0025 (-0.0105)	
Yen 225 (-0.05)	
Yen 288.85 (-2.75)	
Yen 72.5 (-0.5)	
New York:	
£ \$1.1485	
DM 3.1767	
\$ index 145.7 (+0.7)	

INTEREST RATES

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9½-9¾
3-month Interbank 10%-10½
3-month eligible bills 9½-9¾
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 10.75
Federal Funds 9
3-month Treasury Bills 7.84-7.80
Long bond 101-101½

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares weaken

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 24. Dealings End, Jan 11. \$ Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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170	175	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305	310	315	320	325	330	335	340	345	350	355	360	365	370	375	380	385	390	395	400	405	410	415	420	425	430	435	440	445	450	455	460	465	470	475	480	485	490	495	500	505	510	515	520	525	530	535	540	545	550	555	560	565	570	575	580	585	590	595	600	605	610	615	620	625	630	635	640	645	650	655	660	665	670	675	680	685	690	695	700	705	710	715	720	725	730	735	740	745	750	755	760	765	770	775	780	785	790	795	800	805	810	815	820	825	830	835	840	845	850	855	860	865	870	875	880	885	890	895	900	905	910	915	920	925	930	935	940	945	950	955	960	965	970	975	980	985	990	995	1000																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					

RENTALS

INGHAM ROAD, SW5
3 bedrm garden flat on
2nd floor. 1st floor
open plan kitchen with
stove, oven, top electric
fridge. Gas central heating
system. Gas fired boiler. 2
bathrooms. Available 1st June
2000. Company Ltd.

£200 per week

ES GATE MEWS, SW7
2 bedroom house on 2 floor in
prime location. 1st floor
open plan kitchen with
stove, 2 reception rooms.
Bathrooms. Available 1st June
or 6/24 months. Company

£280 per week

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01-937 7244

ALGAR SQUARE WC2
Modern. Ground new house 1
and apartment to let for
6/12 months

Kidney	
04	

[illegible]

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S/C RUBY

[illegible]

Lat. Sel
Kew, S
bedroom

BARRETT urgently re-
quest or fail above. Ring 854
times

D. Brand new 2 bed home
over 3 story high. 2140pr.
Gochman 370 7831

GREEN, Super 3 room
5 pr. Unfurnished. Ch lat
226677

LA. Overlooking park. own
er live. \$150 pcm incl. Tel-
806

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BLANKLEY
"MOUR" Gdn
NY" Std

AN IN RED (15) in Dolby
 4.15, 6.25, 8.35 Lic tape
 11.15 All Seats £2.50
 Lic'd star

NW BAKER ST. Tel: 938
 5.20, 6.40, 8.30, 10.45
 5.25 TAKAS (11) 2.30, 5.30,
 8.45 11.30. Lic bar Tickets

NW BOLLINGTON GREEN,
 (Angel tunnel) THE KILLING
 6.55, 8.30, 10.15, 11.15
 1.15 Evng per bookable in
 in Dolby stereo

NW THE HILL 435 3366
 6.45 (Angel) Eve Menher in
 11.15 in A SOUND LIKE A (11)
 7.10, 9.10. Lic bar Seats

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines weather, traffic and sports bulletins.

6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Debbie Frix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.55; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.57, 9.27, 9.57 and 10.27. Plus the Breakfast Time doctor and Lynn Christie's cookery advice between 8.30 and 9.00; and a review of employment prospects in the coming year.

9.00 Charlie Brown (r). 8.25 The Parole of Penelope Pitsoop (r). 9.45 Why Don't You...? Children from Bristol with diverting ideas for their bored country in other parts of the country.

10.10 Jackanory. Jan Francis reads part four of Peter Pan (r). 10.25 Paddington in A Visit to the Theatre (r). 10.30 Play School, presented by Stuart McGugan. 10.50 Cartoon. Mickey and Donald (r).

11.15 Bonanza. Drama at the Ponderosa when Little Joe is the only person able to fight for his wounded father's life (r). 12.05 Why Don't You Father Gets Home. Cartoon series made by Hanna-Barbera.

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Corderale. The weather details come from Michael Fish. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One from York where local lad Frankie Howard explains the city's Viking history. With Professor Laurie Taylor and music from the Minster. 1.50 Bagpuss. A Sea-See programme for the very young (r).

2.05 International Tennis. The World Young Masters from the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, a new tournament for players aged 21 and under. Introduced by Barry Davies. 3.48 Regional news (not London).

3.50 Play School, presented by Stuart McGugan. 4.10 The Family-News. 4.15 Jackanory. Martin Jarvis reads Richard Cromwell's, William Playes Santa Claus, and the Three Musketeers. The first in a new series of cartoons about a dog named Craven's Newsworld.

5.00 Blue Peter with the latest edition of the Double Life Saver Appeal (Ceefax). 5.25 Henry's Cat. 5.30 Grange Hill. The 18th and last episode of the serial (r). (Ceefax). 5.58 Weather.

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.

6.30 London Plus.

6.55 Top of the Pops, introduced by John Peel and Richard Skinner.

7.35 The Front Line. Comedy series about a Rastafarian and his policeman half-brother.

8.05 Paul Daniels' Magic Moments. Highlights from the magician's last series. His guests include Roberto Gasser and his two lions.

9.00 News with Julia Somerville.

9.25 Wynne and Pankovskiy. Part two of the three episode dramatization of the story of businessman Wynne and Pankovskiy. Directed by David Calder and Christopher Royle in the title roles (Ceefax).

10.25 Stargate and Hatch. Part one of the two episode dramatization of the story of a professional hit-man and a possible outbreak of an epidemic (part two tomorrow) (Ceefax) (r).

11.15 International Tennis. Highlights of the evening matches in the World Young Masters Tournament.

12.05 Weather.

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.00; guests, Jenny Seagrove and Doris Collins at 8.45; exercise at 8.55; 8.58; Popeye cartoon at 9.25; pop video at 9.54; Lloyd Grossman in Milton Keynes at 8.15; video report at 8.45, 9.00 and 9.15.

ITV LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street. 10.25 Film: The Great Escape (1979), starring David Hasselhoff, Christopher Plummer and Caroline Munro. Science fiction yarn set in the time when the universe is under the control of the evil Count Zarth. On a mission to destroy the Count's secret headquarters on the best planet in the galaxy, saucy Stella Star and her navigator, Aktion. Directed by Louis Cossett.

12.00 The Little Green Man. Jon Partridge is the first new series about a person from outer space and his pet Zom. 12.10 Mooncat and Co with guest Pat Coombes (r). 12.30 The Sullivan.

1.00 News at One. 1.30 Thames news. 1.30 Falcon Crest. Drama serial about the struggle to control a California wine business. Reported by Jane Wynne.

2.30 Look Who's Talking. Derek Baskin in conversation with Eric Wise who talks about his life and career and his hopes for the future without Eric.

3.00 Gems. Episode two of the serial set in the Covent Garden workshops of a fashion company. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 The Little Green Man. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Cartoon Time featuring Speedy Gonzales (r). 4.20 Sooty. The first of a new series of adventures. With Matthew Corbett and guest, Windsor Davies.

4.40 Words, Words, Words. A new series of entertaining and educational programmes for young people. 5.00 Dangerous.

5.15 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers. Presented by Bob Holness.

5.25 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.25 Sports Report, introduced by Steve Rider.

6.50 The Shape of Things to Come (1979), starring Jack Palance and Carol Lynley. Science fiction tale about New Washington, a peaceful retreat from Earth, situated on the moon. It suddenly comes under attack from the robots and spaceships of Omus and is delivered an ultimatum - surrender to the Emperor of Deimos or be destroyed. Directed by George McCowan.

8.30 Night Train to Murder, starring Moricaine and Wise in their last film together. A spoof thriller in which the peerless pair play themselves and become involved in a plot that Agatha Christie at her most tortuous would have laid trouble in inventing. With Fulton Mackay and Kenneth Haigh.

10.00 News at Ten followed by Thames news headlines.

10.30 Escape from Alcatraz (1979), starring Clint Eastwood as Frank Morris, a prisoner who has a habit of escaping from prisons. He is transferred to Alcatraz where the warden warns him that the place is escape-proof and that he should abandon any attempts to break out of the island prison. Directed by Donald Siegel.

12.35 Night Thoughts.



Basic topography and rudimentary history are only the incidental attractions of TREASURE HUNT (Channel 4, 8.00pm). The most positive attraction is not hard to seek. She is pictured on the left: Anna Rice, the helicopter pilot who is a genuine treasure hunter. She is a bottomless well. Limitless, too, are her reserves of patience, for she is the resilient target of occasional ascription from Kenneth Kendall, comfortably based in the studio while she speeds against the clock through the sky and across land and water. And only rarely does she allow herself to be rattled by the obtuseness of the studio contestants in whose financial interest she is labouring so mightily. She has an inextinguishable capacity for responding to the natural wonders of the British countryside (tonight's programme

has her tearing through Shakespeare country) with all the uninhibited wonderment of a child opening her eyes to the world. Miss Rice is, in short, something of a national treasure herself, and the programme that so mercilessly exploits her talent is one of the best 60 minutes of entertainment to be found anywhere on British television.

WE WERE THE LAMBETH BOYS (BBC2, 8.00pm) is Rob Holness's resolution, in colour, of Karl Fiala's black and white documentary We Are The Lambeth Boys, screened last night. Twenty-five years separate the two films, but in terms of the social revolution that overhauled the former teenagers since we last saw them

arguing and enjoying themselves, you would think that a century had intervened. And the time separation will strike you as even wider than that when, tomorrow night, in the third and final film of the series, the Lambeth boys and girls of 1984 are compared with their 1959 predecessors. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of Mr Holness's two films as sociological studies. What will surprise you is how compelling they are as human documents.

Radio highlights: The old and cherished Beethoven recording of LA BOMME (Radio 3, 7.00pm) with Victoria de los Angeles as Mimi and Boris Christoff as Rodolfo; and the repeat of Brian Redhead's political history series, PLATO TO NATO (Radio 4, 8.10pm).

Peter Davalle

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning News. 7.30 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 7.45 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 7.55 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 8.05 Morning Concert (cont'd). 8.15 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 8.25 News. 8.30 This Week's Composer: Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 4 (Fischer/Philharmonia). 8.45 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 8.55 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.05 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.15 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.25 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.35 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.45 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 9.55 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 10.05 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (Murray Perahia, piano). 10.15 Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 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